

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER 1961 – 1970's VOL. 1

Creator: Mary Jane Carlino

S1249

S1249

S.F. CHRON. 7-1-61

Shorty's Big Last Day



Another bit of the color of downtown San Francisco faded yesterday when Albert (Shorty) Anderson closed his newsstand at Market street and Grant avenue and went into retirement.

To mark the occasion, Mayor George Christopher proclaimed it "Albert (Shorty) Anderson Day" in town and personally delivered a framed proclamation to that effect.

"For 30 years you have been a shining example of private enterprise on this corner," said the Mayor.

Replied Shorty, surrounded by dozen of friends and relatives: "God bless you."

Little People Cut The World



MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE BAY AREA'S LITTLE PEOPLE INCLUDE ACTIVITIES FOR SMALL FRY, TOO
Story-telling ability of Miss Lola Cox, the organization's oldest member, keeps youngsters entranced

Down To Size

By BILL STROBEL

When you are only four feet tall, the world can be big, unfriendly and sometimes even cruel.

The job of the Little People of the Bay Area is to cut it down to size.

The organization, formed early this year, has 26 members—men, women and children who can be roughly classified as either midgets or dwarfs. The youngest is 5, the oldest 73, the smallest, 32 inches, the tallest 4 feet 7.

"Our aim," says Mrs. Elsie East, the group's secretary-treasurer, "is to be treated like normal-sized people instead of children."

"Those of us who are older have had all the hard knocks. Most of us have learned to cope with them," she said. "We hope to help children and other people who are small over the rough spots."

And, there are plenty of rough spots. Employment opportunities are limited for people who are small. Nothing is designed to fit them and there is a tendency among too many people to look upon them as freaks.

Elsie, who stands 4 feet even,

and her husband, Robert, who is 4 feet 7, have encountered most of the problems and they have either solved them or learned to live with them.

One of the toughest problems came when the Easts' son, Jon, who is now 10 and will grow up to a normal size, entered school.

He was taunted by fellow students and often came home from school in tears.

"We decided that we had two choices," Mrs. East said. "One was the choice made by too many small people. You hide out from the world. We took the second. We stepped out of the shadows and into the spotlight."

She became a den mother and she and her husband made it a point to become active in parent and other community groups.

In addition to her work with the little people's organization, Mrs. East also is an officer in the California Auto Racing Fan Club and corresponding secretary of the East Bay Coin Club.

Like other members of the group, the Easts found many

Continued on Page 2-FL



WORKER OF THE YEAR. Mrs. Anna M. Dixon, "a little person" just 3'11" tall, has been named Goodwill Worker of the Year for 1965. Congratulating her is selection committee chairman Dr. J. S. Felton, Professor of Occupational Health, UCLA Medical Center; and committee members Dr. Ray Jones, director, leadership training area of the deaf, San Fernando Valley State College; and Mrs. Florence G. Clifton, chief of the California State Division of Industrial Welfare. Mrs. Dixon, who will serve as official hostess at the awards breakfasts, was chosen Worker of the Year because of her superior vocational accomplishments and outstanding achievement in rising above the limits of her handicap.

March 1966



District 8 Plans 1966 Nat'l Convention

Growth Hormone Help For 'Too Few' Children

By Maitland Zane

Two hundred American children afflicted with pituitary dwarfism can now look forward to a normal life because of "growth hormone" treatments, a Baltimore specialist said yesterday.

Dr. Myron Genel of Johns Hopkins University estimated that between 5000 and 10,000 children are victims of the rare and terrible ailment.

He is one of 3000 doctors who are attending the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which closes today at the Hilton.



DR. MYRON GENEL
At pediatrics meeting

LIMITATION

"We could treat 15 times as many kids — if we just had the pituitary glands," said Dr. Genel.

The problem is their collection from dead bodies — the one and only source of human growth hormone.

"To treat one child for one year we need 400 pituitary glands," he said.

The gland is removed at the time of death and then

the growth hormone is extracted chemically.

Only a microscopic amount is contained in each gland — 5000 glands yielded only a sixth of an ounce in a pioneer University of California experiment by Dr. Choh Hao Li.

He is the world-renowned scientist who discovered the chemical structure of the

growth hormone and is now trying to synthesize it.

Dr. Genel represents the National Pituitary Agency, which has a private contract with the Federal Government and which is supported by the National Institute for Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases.

If a pituitary gland could be obtained from each of the 1 million autopsies conducted annually in the United States, there would be more than enough to treat every child suffering from the condition, he said.

Just as people can will their eyes to an eye bank on their death, they can will their pituitary glands.

PATHOLOGISTS

"I'm seeking the help of pathologists and trying to stimulate the collection of glands," said Dr. Genel.

Near - miraculous results can be obtained from growth hormone treatment.

Apart from his normal growth, a sixty-year-old child getting hormone treatments will add an extra three or four inches in one year, Dr. Genel said.

"Will he catch up to other kids? Not quite, but he'll come much closer," said Dr. Genel.

HEIGHT

"Without the hormone, the child would be lucky to reach four feet in height. We consider we've had a good deal of success if we can get the child to grow to five feet.

"In our society it's a handicap to a man to be only five feet tall, but not much of a one for a woman." The treatment is costly — but more than worth the money.

"We figure the cost," he said with a grin, "at a hundred dollars an inch."

Dear Sir:

I would like to have more information on the article that I read in the San Francisco Chronicle on April 5, 1967, concerning dwarfism. My wife and I and our two sons, who are 9 and 7, are dwarfs. We also belong to the Little People Club of America, in which I am the president of the local chapter. Our club consists of all ages, young and old. There are about 15 young children under 12 years of age.

I would like to make an appointment with you concerning this new serum you have discovered.

Would you please send me more literature on this new serum that you have discovered?



519 N. James St.
Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001
May 25, 1967

human growth inc.—children's hospital—buffalo, new york 14222

Mr. Neno Carlino
5828 Santa Cruz Ave
Richmond 8, Calif.

Dear Mr. Carlino:

Dr. Milton Grossman has already sent information about Human Growth Hormone, the National Pituitary Agency and Human Growth, Inc. in response to your inquiry about the April 5th article in the San Francisco Chronicle by Dr. Myron Genel of Johns Hopkins.

I want to tell you about a new chapter of Human Growth Inc that Mrs. Robert Israel of 2543 Louis Road, Palo Alto is trying to start in the San Francisco area. As you can image, distance in the Bay area is quite a problem. Mrs. Israel, who is the mother of a girl who has recently started receiving injections of Human Growth Hormone, has had quite a time establishing this chapter, because she herself first learned of our work only a few months ago and because I have not had the opportunity to personally assist her. I am sure that you might be able to give her and myself some valuable points if you would.

Although I know of the LPA and Lee Kitchens, whom I will meet in Dallas the first of June, and Billy Barty in California, we have never formally tried any sort of liaison between LPA and HGI. I am not proposing any sort of merging, because one of your purposes, as I understand it, is social and also aimed personally for the Little People, while ours, HGI, is not social and we as a group help the people with growth problems while not ourselves, to date, are so afflicted. However, I believe that we have so many other possible areas of common interest, that it may be very mutually profitable to be in much closer association, even to the point of individuals from both groups joining the other group if that is possible.

Please let me have your thoughts on this matter and do get in touch with Mrs. Israel.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Brathovde, President

cc: Dr. Grossman
Mrs. Israel
Dr. Kaplan

dedicated to help medical science better understand the process of growth.

THOMAS ACETO, Jr., M.D.
Buffalo, New York

ALVIN B. BALABAN, M.D.
Great Neck, New York

Thomas Aceto, Jr., M.D.
Children's Hospital
Buffalo, New York

Robert M. Blizzard, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

Raphael David, M.D.
New York University School of Medicine
New York, New York

MRS. ALVIN B. BALABAN
Great Neck, New York

RAYMOND J. COTHRAN
Albany, New York

Frederick J. Flynn, M.D.
Newington Hospital for Crippled Children
Newington, Connecticut

Milton S. Grossman, M.D.
University of Maryland Medical School
Baltimore, Maryland

Jerome A. Grunt, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University Medical School
New Haven, Connecticut

MRS. HAROLD A. DAUTCH
Buffalo, New York

BERNARD L. ISAACS
Montreal, Canada

Frederic M. Kenny, M.D.
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Allen W. Root, M.D.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia 46, Pennsylvania

W. P. VanderLaan, M.D.
Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation
La Jolla, California

ALAN F. MOCK
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

JOHN M. PORTER
Annandale, Virginia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAMES R. BRATHOVDE, Ph.D.
Binghamton, New York
President

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Director

Robert Blizzard, M.D.

Assistant Director

Milton Grossman, M.D.

N.I.H. Project Officer

Robert Bates, Ph.D.

Medical Advisory Board

Alexander Albert, M.D.

Manuel Bergnes, M.D.

Robert Brill, M.D.

Melvin Grumbach, M.D.

Philip Henneman, M.D.

David Kipnis, M.D.

Olof Pearson, M.D.

Alfred Wilhelmi, D.Phil.

Medical-Legal Advisor

Edward Forgotson, M.D.

National Pituitary Agency

1900 McElderry Street — ORleans 5-4444 — Baltimore, Maryland 21205



Administrative Associate

Dorothy R. Miller

MAY 19, 1967

MR. NENO CARLINO
5828 SANTA CRUZ AVENUE
RICHMOND 8, CALIFORNIA

DEAR MR. CARLINO:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7 TO DR. MYRON GENEL OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL WHO REPRESENTED THE NATIONAL PITUITARY AGENCY IN CALIFORNIA AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS. I AM SENDING YOU THE LITERATURE THAT YOU REQUESTED ABOUT HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE AND THE KINDS OF CHILDREN THAT CAN BE HELPED WITH THIS. I URGE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE MANY CAUSES OF DWARFISM, AND THAT ONLY A FEW OF THESE CAN BE HELPED TODAY.

I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING TO EMPHASIZE TO YOUR MEMBERS IS THAT UNTIL 1958, THE FORM OF DWARFISM KNOWN AS "HYPOPITUITARISM" (DUE TO PITUITARY GROWTH HORMONE FAILURE) COULD NOT BE TREATED. THEN THERE WAS A DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH, AND WE WERE ABLE TO EXTRACT AND PURIFY HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE. NOW THIS ONE FORM OF DWARFISM IS AMENABLE TO TREATMENT. PERHAPS MANY OF THE OTHER FORMS OF DWARFISM SUCH AS ACHONDROPLASIA AND THE CHONDRODYSTROPHIES WILL BE AMENABLE TO THERAPY AND MEDICAL CORRECTION IN THE FUTURE.

I SHOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE IS STILL PRESENT IN EXTREMELY SHORT SUPPLY. THEREFORE, NOT ALL CHILDREN WHO LACK THIS MATERIAL ARE ABLE TO BE TREATED TODAY. WE ARE UNABLE TO USE THE EXTRACTS OF ANIMAL GLANDS TO TREAT THESE CHILDREN SINCE THEY ARE INEFFECTIVE. WE CANNOT SYNTHESIZE GROWTH HORMONE IN THE LABORATORY. WE ARE TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON HUMAN PITUITARY GLANDS COLLECTED AT AUTOPSY FOR THE SOURCE OF THIS MATERIAL. IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 300 HUMAN PITUITARY GLANDS TO TREAT ONE CHILD FOR ONE YEAR. THE AVERAGE CHILD REQUIRES 4 YEARS OF THERAPY. THEREFORE, WE DEPEND UPON AN INFORMED PUBLIC TO DONATE THEIR PITUITARY GLANDS TO THIS WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

Sponsored by the

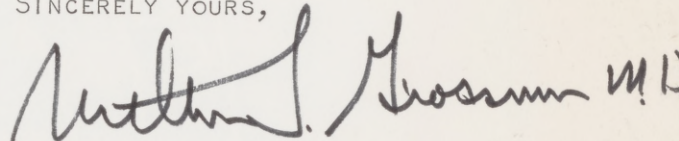
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF ARTHRITIS & METABOLIC DISEASES and the COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

PAGE 2
MR. NENO CARLINO
MAY 19, 1967

PEOPLE WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE HYPOPITUITARISM HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER TO FORM AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA. THIS ORGANIZATION IS CALLED HUMAN GROWTH INC., AND HAS AS ITS PRESIDENT DR. JIM BRATHOVDE. YOU WILL NOTE THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION THAT I AM SENDING YOU HAS BEEN PUT OUT BY THIS ORGANIZATION. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF SENDING A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO DR. BRATHOVDE WHO PROBABLY WILL CONTACT YOU IN THE FUTURE. I AM SURE THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER, THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA AND THE HUMAN GROWTH INC., WILL DO MUCH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT GROW TO AVERAGE STATURE. IT IS THROUGH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE THAT RESEARCH IS SUPPORTED. I AM SURE THAT IN THE FUTURE RESEARCH WILL REVEAL MANY MORE WAYS OF TREATING CHILDREN WITH SHORT STATURE WHO ARE NOT NOW AMENABLE TO THERAPY. IT IS TOWARD THIS GOAL THAT WE ALL MUST WORK.

IF I CAN BE OF ANY FURTHER HELP TO YOU, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON ME.

SINCERELY YOURS,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Milton S. Grossman M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MILTON S. GROSSMAN, M.D.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MSG:RA

ENCLOSURES

cc: DR. JIM BRATHOVDE



McKUSICK & FRIENDS AT BALTIMORE PARTY
Definition comes before treatment.

GENETICS

The Little People

Assembling more than 250 dwarfs and midgets for a lawn party and a whirl of dances may seem like a Barnum and Bailey act, but last week that many members of an organization called the Little People of America convened in Baltimore for medically scientific as well as social reasons. The hosts were Dr. Victor A. McKusick and 15 colleagues at the Moore Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the nation's leading investigators into the causes of dwarfism and possible remedies for it. Their invited guests were essential past and future participants in Moore Clinic research.

The Little People's organization was founded in 1957 by Billy Barty, one of the few who conform to the popular misconception that most midgets are in show business. Barty is, and has done well.* Now 43, Barty stands 3 ft. 9 in. He arrived with Wife Shirley, 4 ft. 3 in., and their daughter Lori, who at age five measures 3 ft. 1 in. Anthropometrists say Lori probably will never top 4 ft. 7 in., so the Little People classify her as "Little Little."

Medically Oriented. McKusick's team had already examined most of the association members, piecing together family trees, taking blood and cell specimens to study chromosomes and hormones and X-raying joints to look

at cartilage-bone defects. A great deal of work remains to be done, so 18 Little People arrived days ahead of time. They were admitted to the hospital for detailed tests by orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and otolaryngologists. Especially concerned were the gynecologists, for dwarf women's babies usually have to be delivered by caesarean section. Of the dozen conventions the Little People have had, this was by far the most medically oriented. To handle all the examinations, a temporary hospital room was set up in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, convention headquarters.

All this work is necessary, says McKusick, because to treat or prevent dwarfism it first must be clearly defined. That is not as easy as it sounds. Beyond the rough classification of midgets as people of short but otherwise normal body build, and dwarfs as having some other physical abnormality in addition to short stature, McKusick lists 20 different conditions as causes of subnormal growth. Among the conventioners, he found at least one representative of almost all the types, and some who appeared to fit no known category, suggesting that the classification table will now have to be extended.

"We have," says McKusick, "been paying special attention to the children, whose growth is not complete, whose epiphyses [the growing ends of long bones] haven't yet closed. We have more than 30 of them here." The hope is that some of these children can be helped, by injections of human growth hormone, to grow to 5 ft. or more, in which case they would no longer qualify as Little People.

Concession to Bigness. The likeliest candidates for this help are children with otherwise normal physiques whose pituitary glands do not produce enough of the hormone. Even for them the supply problem is forbidding. Growth hormone from animals is useless for man unless it is specially processed, and little of this is now produced. Human growth hormone must be extracted, in minute quantities, from the pituitaries of cadavers. Each year the National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore gets about 75,000 of these glands, mostly from pathologists exploring the skull in post-mortem examinations. The agency supplies the Hopkins with extracts from the glands. It takes the hormone from 150 or more glands to treat one child for a year. For victims of the commonest type of dwarfism, achondroplasia, marked by short limbs, large heads and "scooped out" noses, no hormonal or other treatment is effective.

Regardless of whether they can be helped to grow, most of the Little People are determined to show that they can compete on an equal basis with big people in today's world and do not have to fall back upon the circus for a livelihood. Robert Spector, last week's convention chairman, is a Ph.D. working on chemistry patents for Du Pont. Lee Kitchens, an electronics engineer for Texas Instruments and the outgoing Little People's president, literally soared into town, flying his own plane from Richardson, Texas. Since he stands only 4 ft. 1 in., the rudder pedals on his Piper Tri-Pacer have been built up about nine inches to meet his feet.



* As has Michael Dunn (*Ballad of the Sad Café*, *Ship of Fools*), who missed the Baltimore meeting. He was in Europe making a movie.

Miss Lola Cox
1884 - 1968

Eulogy delivered by Mrs. A. F. Stickney on May 28, 1968

As I stood before Lola's casket, it seemed so different to see Lola with closed eyes. Those shiny, sparkling eyes, that twinkly smile, and a friendly word, were all a part of her. Even when she was not feeling too well, Lola tried to keep her voice peppy, her spirits gay, and looked at the world pleasantly.

From coast to coast, the members of Little People of America dearly loved Lola, our oldest member, but only in age. For Lola was young of heart and spirit, and she served as an inspiration to all who knew her. Many people, half her age, were not nearly as young as she when it came to looking at life and its problems.

Kindness is another word one thinks of. Without fanfare, Lola did many, many thoughtful things for so many. I imagine each one of us can think of that extra something beyond the call of duty that Lola did for us. She loved to see people happy and helped to make them so. Not only was she kind to others, but she appreciated kindness done for her, and "thanks" came to her lips, quickly.

However, there was a practical and sensible side to our Lola. You don't make the mark she made in life without a lot of good thought and hard work. Up to the last, she kept her alert mind, for which we were thankful and so was she. Not too long ago, Lola said to me, "I hope my body goes before my mind does." Her wish was granted, and in our sadness this should cheer us, too.

For behind her, Lola has left a memory of a personality that will be with us all for the rest of our lives. As a final salute to our Lola, a truly beautiful soul, I quote this last verse of an old Indian poem.

" Beauty is in yourself,
Good deeds, happy thoughts
That repeat themselves
In your dreams,
In your work,
And even in your rest."

Thurs., Nov. 28, 1968

Little People's Convention on Mutual Aid

Port Macquarie, Australia

The little people are heading for this picturesque resort — to start a mutual aid association for dwarfs.

From all over Australia and New Zealand, 56 of them are flying in today for the first Australian Little People's Convention, because, say the organizers it's no fun being little and alone.

The convention was the idea of dwarfs George and Rosemary Whittaker.

George said: "Because of their size, little people find it difficult to obtain employment. They often withdraw from society and become very lonely."

Reuters



CONCORD

"A Better Place in the Sun"



SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA CHAPTER
HOSTS

LITTLE

PEOPLE

OF

AMERICA

DISTRICT

12

CONVENTION

APRIL 18-19-20

CONCORD

CALIFORNIA

City of Concord

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

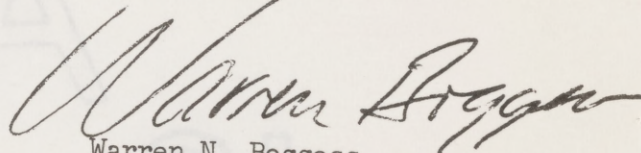
February 20, 1969

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was delighted to learn that your organization, the Little People of America, has chosen Concord for its District 12 convention.

I will be looking forward to meeting you personally and extending the greetings of the City of Concord when your Convention convenes on April 19th.

Very truly yours,



Warren N. Boggess

District 12
Little People of America
San Francisco, California



Billy Barty - Founder
of
Little People of America, Inc.

Our thanks to you for a job well done as
our District 12 Director.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN
Neno Carlino

COMMITTEES

REGISTRATION:

Jackie East * Dorene Williams * Darlene McGregor
Mary Ann Schroeder * Cathy Sampson * Mary Jane Carlino
Harriet Stickney

BANQUET:

Neno Carlino * Bob East * Kenneth Williams

PRIZES:

Al Stickney * Juanita Colla * Connie Cummins * Hilda Lange
Darlene McGregor * Carol Belknap * Cathy Sampson

PARENTS AUXILIARY:

Harriet Stickney

INVITATIONS:

Neno Carlino * Jackie East * Betty Stewart
Mary Jane Carlino

ENTERTAINMENT:

Kenny Williams * Bob East * Neno Carlino
Betty Stewart

PROGRAM:

Betty Stewart * Jackie East * Harriet Stickney
Neno Carlino

DENEVI
CAMERA STORE

520 Via Mercado
Hesperian Blvd. & Via Mercado
San Lorenzo
278-1121

R. M. BARNUM

MANAGER
BANK OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SUNVALLEY CENTER BRANCH
385 SUNVALLEY MALL
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA
934-1011

FRIDAY APRIL 18

7:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION

8:30 - 10:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION DRAWING

CONTRA COSTA BOULEVARD

PLEASANT HILL, CALIFORNIA

Denny's RESTAURANTS, INC.

elcomes "The Little People"

MGR. "CORKY" BROWN

OPEN 24 HOURS

ELECTRONIC TUNE-UP
WHEEL BALANCING & ALIGNMENT
BRAKE SERVICE
TAIL PIPES & MUFFLERS
FIRESTONE TIRES & RECAPS
COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE



FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY

SUNVALLEY SHELL SERVICE

606 CONTRA COSTA BLVD.
PLEASANT HILL, CALIFORNIA
24 HOUR TOWING SERVICE

BILL PRUETT
JERRY PRUETT PHONE 687-3900

EXTENSIONS

Fits Most American Autos
Adjustable - Detachable
Neat Appearing
Information On Request

Other Handy Gadgets

BOB EAST

Box 7109 - Fruitvale Station
Oakland, California 94601



MANOR HARDWARE

PAINTS • HARDWARE • GARDEN SUPPLIES
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

18400 Hesperian Blvd.
San Lorenzo, Calif.

*We wish to express our sincerest
appreciation to the companys and persons
who so kindly contributed all the lovely
prizes.*

LEO

VINCE

JACK

P.S.



PERSONAL SERVICE . . . OFFERING ALL
TYPES OF INSURANCE. MAY WE SERVE YOU?

LEE L. JARDINE
INSURANCE

LEE L. JARDINE AGENCY
98 WEST JACKSON STREET
P. O. BOX 3702, HAYWARD, CALIF.

BUS. 782-5900
RES. 538-3607



957 Columbus Ave SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY MORNING

APRIL 19

9:30 - 11:00 A. M.

GENERAL MEETING

11:00 - 11:30 A. M.

NOMINATIONS

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

APRIL 19

1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

PARENT'S AUXILLIARY * LITTLE-LITTLES

TEENS * BOARD MEETING

"POLITICING * CHIT-CHAT * GOSSIP"

4:00 - 5:30

SHOPPING TOUR * GAMES & PRIZES

7:00 P.M.

COCKTAILS

8:00 til ?

DINNER * ENTERTAINMENT * DANCING

PICTURES DURING INTERMISSION

Red Wing
Shoes

Freeman
Shoes

"WIDE FEET"

"WE FIT THE HARD TO FIT"

izes 3-16

Widths AA-EEEE

ALDER'S SHOES

636 EAST 14th ST.
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Phone
533-3994

EVERETT E. CONLEY

1974 W. TENNYSON
HAYWARD, CALIF.

PALMA CEIA MOBIL SERVICE

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE

ALLSTATE ROAD SERVICE - PICK UP & DELIVERY

BLUE CHIP STAMPS

783-9732

* * * * *

SUNDAY APRIL 20

9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

GENERAL MEETING

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

DRAWING

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

* * * * *

SINCE 1925

AM - FM

SERVICE ELECTRONIC COMPANY

REPAIR & SALES

AUTO RADIOS - TRANSISTOR PORTABLES

TV SERVICE - STROBE LITE REPAIRS

H-FI SETS

1062 GEARY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 9, CALIF.
PROSPECT 6-3179

DAVID V. ROSTON

ALIOTO'S

"Tops in View...n Sea food too!"

8 FISHERMAN'S WHARF
SAN FRANCISCO

TELEPHONE ORDWAY 3-0184

COMPLIMENTS

FROM THE

J. C. PENNEY CO

In Sunvalley Shopping Center
484 SUN VALLEY MALL CONCORD

COPIER-DUPLICATOR division



CORPORATION

...helping people communicate

Addressograph Multigraph Corporation
750 East Fourteenth Street, Oakland, California 94606

COPYING AND DUPLICATING PRODUCTS
OFFSET DUPLICATORS
ELECTROSTATIC COPIERS
SUPPLIES AND PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

FOR INFORMATION CALL
(415) 834-5777

FREEZALL PREMIUM MEATS

Serving Freezer Owners For Over 20 Years

- ★ CUT & WRAPPED TO YOUR ORDER
- ★ HOME DELIVERY SERVICE



LET OUR ECONOMIST SHOW YOU HOW
TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR FOOD
BUDGET AT NO OBLIGATION TO YOU

FINANCING AVAILABLE

483-4900

GAME PROCESSING

FREEZERS

LOCKER RENTALS AVAILABLE

1590 SAN LEANDRO BLVD.

SAN LEANDRO

NOTES



In Memoriam

Lola Cox

Anna Dixon

Harvey Williams

Peggy Stockton

Fulvio Parenti

Shoes • Resized

And

Restyled

FAMILY SHOE REPAIR

1309 Park St. Alameda, Calif.

"15 Years Experience"

Concord's Newest & Finest

Holiday Inn®

PROUDLY PROCLAIMED
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE 1969
**LITTLE PEOPLE
CONVENTION**

- 137 UNITS & SUITES • HEATED SWIMMING POOL
- COLORED TELEVISION • VALET & LAUNDRY SERVICE
- AMPLE FREE PARKING • 24 HOUR SWITCHBOARD

Easy access to Freeways, Airport, Recreational and Shopping Facilities

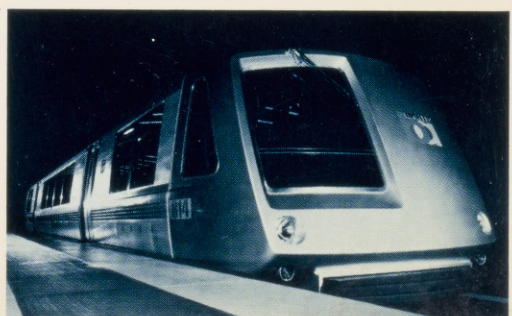
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • COCKTAILS
• BANQUETS
FACILITIES



Horst E. Finkbeiner, Innkeeper

For information or reservations call . . . 687-5500

**1777 DIAMOND WAY
CONCORD**





Ann Richter

Little People think big

Think Big is the motto of the Little People's Club of America.

Members are 4 feet 10 inches tall and under. They shy away from the circus image and the term midgets. They would rather be called dwarfs or preferably little people. The smallest little person on record who achieved adulthood was only 18 inches tall.

NANCY KELLY, OF Grapevine, is 4 feet 2 inches tall and a member of LPA. She says, "I'm a dwarf and a very conceited one. But there was a time when you couldn't find anyone with a bigger inferiority complex than I had."

"One of my big friends knew about LPA and persuaded me to attend a meeting. It was a mental and emotional shock because for years I'd pushed the fact that I was small in the back of my mind."

"There I was suddenly with a lot of little people. I kept thinking—poor things, how can they open that heavy door. Then it hit me I was one of them."

"**LPA HELPS LITTLE** people conquer mental hangups and feelings of inferiority. The organization," Miss Kelly continues, "was started nationally in 1957 in Las Vegas by Billy Barty, a TV and movie actor who is 4 feet tall. The Fort Worth-Dallas chapter held its first meeting in 1966."

"The organization helps with employment opportunities. We can star in most anything except basketball," Miss Kelly says. "LPA has founded an auxiliary organization for parents who play an important part in the lives of little people. And it has set up a committee for educational grants as well as an adoption committee which places 'little littles' (dwarf babies) with married little people."

"Female dwarfs do have babies," Miss Kelly explained, "but they are delivered by caesarean. In some cases dwarfism is inherited. But two little people can have a big child. Or if a big and a little marry, they can have either a big or little child."

"Often dwarfs differ physically from big people. Frequently they are minus four teeth, and they often have back problems."

MISS KELLY SPEAKS from experience since she is recovering from back surgery at John Hopkins in Baltimore, Md., a hospital which specializes in research and treatment of little people. She had experienced severe pain, tingling and numbness in her legs.

Doctors at John Hopkins relieved this by taking the top off four vertebrae in her spine. Although she hasn't completely recovered, she is driving her car and says "things are getting better."

A group of doctors specializing in dwarfism attend LPA's national convention held annually in various U. S. cities. They consult with members and examine them free of charge. The convention is a highlight in the lives of little people because as one put it, "We're always looking up at people. It's a great feeling at the convention to see them eye to eye."

THERE ARE 1800 LPA members in the national organization and 30 in the local chapter. President of the group is Garry Smith. Other officers are Danny Blain, vice president; Mary Beth Eley, secretary and Elaine Sandlin, treasurer.

The club will meet Oct. 21 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gandy.

May 72



FASHION BENEFIT—A fashion show for the benefit of the Little People of America Foundation, will be held May 31 at 7 p.m. in the El Cerrito City Club, 1600 Kearney St. Proceeds will go for medical research and scholarships. Members of LPA shown from left are Lois

Gerage, Joan Cecil, Billy Hare, Mrs. Harriet Stickney, LPA vice president; Al Stickney, LPA district directors. The infant, Yvette Farrington, is one of the younger members of LPA.

Little People Planning A Benefit Fashion Show

A benefit fashion show will be held on May 31 in El Cerrito with all proceeds going to the Little People of America Foundation.

Sponsored by Karousel Koiffures of El Cerrito, the show will be in the El Cerrito City Club, 1600 Kearney St.

and begins at 7 p.m. Donation is \$3.

The theme of the show will be "On a Karousel" and the models will be Cathy Leintz and Mmes. Jerry Hale, Douglas Pavon, Gregory Garcia, John White, William Clark and James Farrington, chairman.

Guest speaker will be Al Stickney, District 12 director

of Little People of America. His wife, Harriet, is vice president of LPA.

Membership of LPA includes children and adults, who for medical reasons are small in stature, as well as average-sized members of their families living in the same household.

The foundation collects funds for medical research projects and scholarships for members. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

The Big Problem Of Being Small

Profile

BY KATHY CARANLIK

Al and Harriet Stickney are members of the Little People of America who thing big.

Active in the national organization, the couple believes LPA is calling public attention to dwarfism.

LPA is something special to the Stickney's because they were introduced by mutual friends in the organization and married three years later. Al is currently the district director for California, Nevada and Hawaii and Harriet is vice president.

People usually take a "double look," according to Harriet, who is 4 feet two inches, whenever she and her husband (4 feet 6 inches) are shopping. However, she did indicate people in California are more sophisticated and intense feelings did not prevail.

Little people experience the same problems as tall individuals, just in reverse. Harriet explained her home is set up according to their needs, but usually creates a problem for somebody coming to visit.

She noted one special stool is used for reaching things throughout the house. Slowly but surely, Harriet indicated, things will be placed where they are easily reached.

"Shopping is another problem because some things are hard to reach, but people are very helpful. Public transportation is just a beast for the real small people," Harriet commented.

The organization encourages little people to be as independent as possible including driving their own automobiles, which Al does.

Parents must be encouraged to allow their child to be independent, Harriet said, which is a major area of concern for the LPA. Prior to the formation of the club, some held back their dwarfed child. They were never allowed to go out alone, she added.

"When I found my own apartment someone asked me where my mother was and why there was no one in

the apartment to look after me," Harriet explained.

She contends things cannot always be done by parents. This is not just a problem for the little people, but for all youths.

The LPA is creating many employment opportunities and a better understanding especially for teenagers, Al noted. When the organization meets, the little people gather their thoughts and make recommendations to the teenagers as to direction they can follow for employ-

ment, he explained.

Research is a primary function of the national organization; learning about dwarfism. Harriet explained there are 80 varieties of dwarfism, glandular and bone structure.

The results cannot be determined before birth, but there is a fifty-fifty chance little people will have a dwarfed child.

Harriet and Al explained none of their brothers or sisters were dwarfs, in fact they averaged about 5 feet

6 inches.

Being 4' 2" tall may be a problem for some people, but not for Harriet. She believes being small is really not a problem at all, just a nuisance. Mini dresses are very good for Harriet and she stated occasionally she can go into a store and buy a dress off the rack without even shortening it.

However, sometimes clothes can be expensive because they have to be tailor made, but they are not cheaper because less material is used.

Al is 4' 6" tall but clothing does not present a

problem. He has located a shop in San Francisco which makes clothes for small and tall people. The choice is sometimes limited, but there are no real problems, he added.

LPA has opened up many avenues for Harriet and Al, including opportunities to travel throughout the United States and meeting people who share the common "nuisances."

Athletic events are much easier when all the competition is the same size, Harriet explained.

"We always participated in the activities when we

were young, but we never won the athletic events, just tried real hard," Al commented.

The Stickney's are currently conducting speaking engagements throughout the bay area and working on the national convention next July in Oakland.



Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney discuss upcoming activities for the Little People of America, Inc.

Some Little People Who Think Big

By Nancy Dooley

"Size shouldn't keep people from entering the field of their choice or from having a good time."

This is the credo of the Little People of America, whose western district is meeting today at the Oakland Hilton in preparation for their national convention in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney, a vivacious couple from San Bruno, took time out from their preparations for the meetings yesterday to describe the Little People, some of the problems they encounter, and the way dwarfs cope with their height.

"We are working with medical research centers throughout the country to find out whatever we can about dwarfism," explains Mrs. Stickney, a former elementary school teacher who is national vice-president of LPA. She is 4'2".

Doctors Invited

To this end, they have invited several Bay Area doctors to their conference today and Dr. David Rimoin, director of the Short Stature Clinic at UCLA's Harbor General Hospital.

There is no known cure for disproportionate dwarfism, which afflicts the Stickneys. Although their bodies have a normal-size trunk, they have very short limbs.

Medical research is only one of LPA's concerns, however. The members work with average-size parents of

dwarf children "who often suffer a traumatic experience," says Mrs. Stickney.

Parental Reaction

"There is sometimes a severe reaction from parents who don't want to face the fact that their child is dwarfed," she says. "This can be very damaging to the child."

The average-size parents also counsel one another at LPA's bi-monthly meetings. "We don't know what it is to be an average-size parent," says Mrs. Stickney, "so they help each other."

LPA members are also on the look-out for federal and state legislation to aid the handicapped. Louis Scharrer, a retired budget officer who worked at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana for 28 years, examines proposed legislation "that might be of benefit to us."

Bill Vetoed

President Nixon recently vetoed a bill to create a special board within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for the education and study of the welfare of the handicapped. The proposal was too costly.

Scharrer is hopeful, however, that the administration will soon introduce a similar, less costly bill.

Scharrer's height — 3'3" — has not stopped him from doing much.

Since his retirement in 1971, he has travelled to Hawaii, South America, the Caribbean, and the British Isles. "I try to smoke these little people out of the

wood," he laughs. "I try to get them to join our group."

Instruction

Part of the reason for today's meeting is to instruct the hotel about the Little People's needs.

Mrs. Stickney, for instance, cannot reach the clothes rack in the closet. And the registration desk in the lobby is too high. ("The best place for a little person to hide is behind the counter of an office," says Scharrer.)

Nor can dwarfs reach many towel racks, telephones, door knobs, and elevator buttons. The Hilton will solve the last problem by providing sticks to push the buttons.

Comfort

Mostly, though, the Little People of America exist because "we realize there is comfort or help knowing you're not alone," says Mrs. Stickney. The group was founded in 1957 with only 20 people, and the national membership has increased to more than 2,000. The Bay Area membership alone totals 150.

"Dwarfism has no respect for race, creed or economic condition," says Mrs. Stickney. "We make a point of enjoying life. There aren't too many fields we can't go into."

Adds her husband, Al, an airplane mechanic for United Air Lines, "Education is the key. If you have the education, you can do whatever you want."



ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING UNDERSIZED

Al and Harriet Stickney find hotel closets troublesome for hanging clothes

—Examiner photo by Teresa Zabo

The Little People's Holiday

A photographic visit to a small convention



"I'm not an elf, I'm a short-statured man, and I don't belong in the circus," proclaims fifteen-year-old Larry Morse of Flint, Michigan, who stands thirty-seven and a half inches tall. Larry is a member of Little People of America, a national organization for anyone under four feet, ten inches. Little People of America is concerned with the practical, psychological, economic, medical, and social problems of smallness. Each year it holds a convention and this year's was at the otherwise bland Hilton in Oakland. "We celebrate being ourselves," explains Nick Della Valle, who works in public relations in Chicago. L.P.A.'s convention is like all others—there are symposia, dances, sporting events, mixers. Says Gracie Oliver, seventeen: "I plan to experience all I can in life." Says David Norris, nineteen: "The small world helps me face the tall world." And, according to three-foot, nine-inch actor Billy Barty, who started the L.P.A. in 1957: "Kids today have a better shot. Little People of America advises, 'Live in *both* worlds. Accept yourself and you can accept anything.'"



The fashion show: One event at the convention was a program which featured clothing made by and for little people. "The purpose," reports Annis Arthur, top, "is to tell little people they can sew. Older ladies often settle for things bought in a children's shop. Well, we can be stylish and have clothes fit us." The photograph on the bottom was also taken at the show—and features examples of attire for a small wedding.



The softball game: This year, the West team, shown here, defeated the East. One participant was André Boursse, a social-science student from Hayward, California. Boursse, an articulate spokesman, says, "My



philosophy is that you can do anything you want. I play golf. I could be a ballplayer in a league for little people. Society doesn't adapt for differentness, yet most people are different in some way. The norm is a myth."



Couples: Laurel Goodkin and Larry Green, top, and Annis Arthur and Gary Friedkin, bottom, were introduced at L.P.A. conventions. Harriet Stickney, vice-president of the organization, says that "most dwarfs have average-sized parents who come to realize that their children are happiest dating and marrying another dwarf." Little People of America offers its members marriage counseling and a child adoption service.



Portrait of family and friends: Oakland was the first convention for Larry (plaid jacket) and Kent and Kim Page (jacketless), teen-age twins from Tucson. "I haven't had so much fun since I was born," remarks Larry. "It's the one time I can be just me," adds Nick Della Valle (back row, center). And, says Adele Chamborden (left), a perennial convention favorite, "Always think big. You are as God wants you to be."

August 11 ... Grand Slam Day For Exchange

RALPH and ANNA KIRK are to be commended for the excellent job they did on the "Softball" project. It took a lot of work, but it paid off in many ways. It raised money for both the Little People and our Club but it also provided a day of fun and entertainment for adults and children alike. However, I feel one big asset of this project was the fact we got Exchange before the public eye. Now we need more good projects of this type to show the people what Exchange is all about.

Exchangites who were not in attendance at this community project really missed an exciting time, at the game and after at Straw Hat Pizza where we all got a chance to talk to the Little People and find out how hard they are trying to prove that they are great little people and not just something to be pointed at and laughed about or pitied.

Incidentally, the "Stumps" stomped us 19-8. For the last two innings the "Stumpetts" played the Exchange Wives. Oddly enough the gals helped our score.



The Dog Who May Save Hollywood

By ROBERT TAYLOR
Tribune Movie Critic

After seasons of killer rats, snakes, sharks and even earthworms, Hollywood is discovering that animals can be cute again.

It took a Dallas movie company, Mulberry Square Productions, to turn the tide with "Benji," that shaggy dog who made millions of dollars at the box office.

They found a camel, called it cuddly and named it Valentine for "Hawmps," a comedy about the U.S. Cavalry which will hit the family film circuit this summer. Meanwhile, Paramount Pictures turns loose "Won Ton Ton, the Dog Who Saved Hollywood" later this month.

"Won" is actually Augustus von Schumacher, a 96-pound, 3½-year-old German shepherd who has been training for a movie career since he was a year old. Gus, as he is affectionately known, began a promotional tour in San Francisco this week with Billy Barty, one of his co-stars who has been in movies himself since he was 3 years old.

Proving himself far more agreeable than his first film, Gus posed patiently for photographers after a romp in Huntington Park. His full day's schedule of appearances was one price of stardom; it would be repeated in another 15 cities on his publicity tour.

Gus does not travel with airline baggage, but in a first-class seat. According to Allan Carr, the dog's agent, Gus impersonates a seeing-eye dog accompanying his trainer.

The dog's performance in "Won Ton Ton" requires him to crash through walls, carry lighted explosives and even



WON, GERMAN-SHEPHERD, WILL STAR IN MOVIE

He poses with Billy Barty one of his co-stars

attempt suicide. He was chosen from among more than 100 German shepherds for the part.

Gus is owned by Lou Schumacher, one of Hollywood's most popular animal suppliers, and trained by Karl Miller. His first job, after 10

weeks of basic movie training, was as the understudy and rehearsal dog for the Saturday morning television series, "Run, Joe, Run."

Carr said Gus makes "a five-figure salary" for a movie appearance, the money going to his owners. The dog has a multi-picture contract with Paramount. Carr said the studio already plans to star Gus in a sequel to "Won Ton Ton," even though the movie has not yet been released.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1974 - 1:00 p.m.



17
THE 19 CHARTER MEMBERS WHO WERE AT MEETING #1 AT HILDA LANGE'S, 2-62

* ALBERT ANDERSON **	BOB EAST	PAT MURRAY **
* MANETTE ANDERSON **	ELSIE EAST	FULVIO PARENTI **
MARY JANE CARLINO **	RON HACKL	BOB POE **
NENO CARLINO **	*HILDA LANGE **	*BOB SHOEMAKER **
CHICO COLLA **	AL MILLS	AL STICKNEY **
LOLA COX	FERN MILLS	DELORIS VERCELLINO **
* attended April, 1957 LPA convention		JOE VERCELLINO **
**attended 1961 LPA convention in Las Vegas		

A SHORT HISTORY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

Behind the first meeting of any organization is much planning. This was true of the SFBAC.

FOUR residents of the Bay Area were among the TWENTY at the very first meeting of LPA in RENO, NEV. in 1957, BILLY BARTY, founder. It is also known that a number went to the second LPA meeting in 1960, in LAS VEGAS. However, the idea of meeting regularly in the BAY AREA was discussed by the 13 who attended the 1961 convention, again in LAS VEGAS. Full of enthusiasm, the idea grew, when they returned..

HILDA LANGE volunteered to have that first meeting at her home in Albany, Ca. FULVIO PARENTI, AL STICKNEY, DEE AND JOE VERCELLINO then met to write postcards to all known LPS in the area. Silent supporters of the effort were MARY JANE & NENO CARLINO, who had met at that 1961 convention, and were busy planning their wedding plus the combining of 2 households.

Since that first meeting at HILDA's, the BAY AREA GROUP has been meeting regularly. Eventually the National LPA Organization began to charter chapters. THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER received their national charter at the JULY, 1968 LPA Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. MR. AND MRS BOB EAST (JACKIE) represented the club and brought back the charter. Geographically, the SFBAC covers the 10 counties bordering SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

There have been several meeting places during the years. For the last few years the group has been meeting the first Friday of each month at THE AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK, 1601 East 14th St., San Leandro.

The first annual inauguration banquet was held on the east side of the Bay in February of 1963. Since then the banquets have alternated, odd numbered years on the east side, even numbered years on the west.

In May, 1968, bi-monthly meetings of the LPA PARENT AUXILIARY were begun. Before that little-littles and their parents attended the meetings and social functions. In '68 it was felt that group was large enough to have additional meetings. Meeting at different homes all around the Bay area, they are geared to the needs of the youngsters and provide a place for parents to exchange ideas, informally.

TODAY there are 61 little persons in the SFBAC (a 200%+ gain in 10 yrs.) 37 adult members (over 18), 8 teens and 16 "little-littles". Average sized family members living in the same household as the little person make up the 72 AUXILIARY MEMBERS. So the current TOTAL is 133!

The past 10 years have been great! NOW-ONWARD with the SFBAC!

SFBAC PRESIDENTS - 1962-1972

JOE VERCELLINO 1962
BOB EAST 1963-64
AL STICKNEY 1965 & 66
NENO CARLINO 1967 & 68
BOB EAST 1969
KENNY WILLIAMS 1970
CATHY SAMSON NUCHOLS 1971
RICHARD LA RUSSA 1972

1969-1972 DISTRICT 12 OFFICERS

DIRECTOR.....AL STICKNEY
VICE DIRECTOR.MRS. SHIRLEY HARPER
TREASURER.....MRS. JACKIE EAST
SECRETARY (appt.).
.....MRS. MARY ANN BUCE

PAST DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF 12

BILLY BARTY..1960-63....1966-69
BOB EAST.....1963-66

1970-1972 NATIONAL LPA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....JOE ALEXANDER
VICE-PRESIDENT..
..MRS. HARRIET STICKNEY
SECRETARY.....JOYCE ENGSTROM
TREASURER...MRS. MARY KITCHENS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT...
..CHARLES BEDOW

IN MEMORIAM...MEMBERS, SFBAC

ALBERT ANDERSON
LOLA COX
AL MILLS
FULVIO PARENTI
PEGGY STOCKTON

1962.....FEBRUARY.....1972

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER
LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, INC.

WELCOMES YOU

TO THE

10th INAUGURATION BANQUET

FEBRUARY 19, 1972

at

MARTINELLI'S STEAK PIT
EL CAMINO REAL..MILLBRAE

1971 SFBAC OFFICERS

MRS. DOUG NUCHOLS.PRESIDENT
KEN WILLIAMS..VICE-PRESIDENT
KATHY MC GUIRE..SECRETARY
PETER NORMAN....TREASURER

1972 SFBAC OFFICERS

RICHARD LA RUSSA...PRESIDENT
BOB BURGAN....VICE-PRESIDENT
CONNIE CUMMINGS...SECRETARY
PETER NORMAN.....TREASURER

The 1972 officers start their
official duties upon their
inauguration tonight.

Installing officer & Master of
Ceremonies..AL STICKNEY

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR
HELPING US TO CELEBRATE
OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY.

.....
Following the banquet and
program, we do hope you'll
stay for fellowship and fun.
.....

- SFBAC -

1962.....FEBRUARY.....1972

San Leandro's Little People

Now Over 70 Members In Local Chapter

"Dwarfs? Dwarfs are something out of Snow White."

"No, dwarfs are midgets that run around in circuses and carnivals."

Wrong, Dwarfs are real people with real lives, real ambitions and real problems. Real people in bodies less than four feet tall.

Approximately one out of every 10,000 people born is a dwarf, and with an estimated 200 million people in the United States about 20,000 would be little people... a very substantial number.

In 1963, these people began to band together and form a Lilliputian organization they named Little People of America (LPA) Incorporated. Under this banner, clubs arose throughout the country.

The Bay Area chapter of LPA, headquartered in San Leandro, began with 13 people and now has over 70 members.

The inventiveness and ingeniousness of the people in this club is very apparent. Having to live at a below average height has made them compensate for many things usually taken for granted.

Such things as reaching above the third floor button on an elevator, reaching gas and brake pedals and reaching shelves in a grocery store are very definite problems for a dwarf.

The LPA in San Leandro, however, is fortunate to have Bob East, a mechanic very adept at solving some of his colleagues' problems.

Reaching the elevator buttons was solved, for instance, by the conversion of an ink pen into a telescopic hook. This item comes in handy for those shelves also.

For the cars, extensions were built into the pedals to adapt them personally.

Children are not left out from the club. In fact, there is a large influence on activities for them. One in particular is the Parents Auxiliary. Their meetings consist of a work session for the parents and a party for the children.



Little People

One out of every 10,000 persons born is a dwarf. Dwarfs locally have united together to form the Little People of America club, headquartered in San Leandro. Kenneth Williams (center) is the club's president, while Mrs. Bob East (right) is secretary and Mrs. Neno Carlino is treasurer.

(Bordanaro and Zarcone Photo)

Parents discuss different problems they may be having, plan activities, and exchange helpful hints. At the moment, the nationwide convention for LPA, to be held in Portland, Oregon, is on the minds of many.

The highlight of each of these conventions is a fashion show in three categories. The first category is purchased clothes others have remade. The second is purchased clothes made over by yourself, and the third is handmade clothes.

Fashion shows are increasingly popular because they give inspiration for different ways to minimize the little persons wardrobe.

All clothes are fashioned for the individual. Contrary to opinion, there are 50 different varieties of dwarfs. Consequently, there are a variety of problems in styling.

Another important feature of the convention is the doctors reports. Any new progress in gland problems and any new problems in general are discussed.

LPA provides a varied social life for little people and is open to new members all the time. Further information on membership can be obtained from the club president, Kenneth Williams, at 483-9860.

SKYLINE COLLEGE PRESS

JAN BRUNO-CA-

4,15-70

"Just Because You're Short Doesn't Mean..."

Little People Reveal True Image

by Joye Ogradowski

Little People of America, providing the on-looker with a fairy-land image, is a nationwide organization of dwarfed people 4'10" tall and under.

Fresno was the sight of the annual convention of District 12, including California, Hawaii and Nevada last month.

"We get together for business and friendship," Mr. Al Stickney, District Director, explained.

A strong belief held by the 4'6" tall leader is "just because you're short doesn't mean you don't have anything between your ears."

He stands as proof of this statement himself, for he has been a federally licensed airplane mechanic for 20 years.

Mrs. Stickney was a primary school teacher for 12 years prior to her marriage.

"People seem to think you have to be tall to be an effective teacher. The children could identify with me" though.

"One student once commented to me that it's nice to be able to see the teacher eye to eye," Mrs. Stickney added.

Miss Carolyn Strange graduated from Stanford in 1966 and is in her third year of teaching at Tracy High School.

Though a successful instructor, Miss Strange admits to having difficulty in buying clothes.

"My mom makes most of my clothes, though I can fit into a size 10 in children's wear."

"While in Florence about six years ago, I had a dye made of my foot. Each pair of shoes cost me \$85, but they fit, so it's worth it."

This little person also is a singer and has soloed with the Stockton Symphony.



California District Director, Mr. Al Stickney, is pictured with his wife and Skyline Press reporter Joye Ogradowski at the annual convention of Little People of America, held at Fresno. Residing in San Bruno, Mr. Stickney is an airplane mechanic at San Francisco International Airport. Mrs. Stickney is a former grammar school teacher.

— Photo by Ken Bisio

Andre Boursse, a student at Los Angeles Valley Junior College, plans to become a geography teacher.

His part-time job as a playground director in Burbank suits him well. In 1967 and 1968 Andre held the California Junior College State Championship in gymnastics.

Despite the success of these little people, they do have problems.

"Parents of dwarfed children think they've got something to hide, something they can't do anything with," Mr. Stickney explained.

"It hurts us when they don't understand. This is why we give the children and teenagers special attention, because we know what it's like," he added.

Mr. Billy Barty founded the organization in 1957. He has been in show business for many years, though less than three percent of the total population of little people are employed as such.

Mr. Stickney feels that this poses another problem. When they reach the parents they must make them realize that show business is not the only answer. Carolyn and Andre are proof of this fact.

Dwarf Has Frustrations — and Fun

By LUCILE HILLYARD
Tribune Staff Writer

"The trouble is that things just aren't made for little people!"

Mrs. Alfred Stickney, a 4 foot 2 inch dwarf, school teacher and lecturer, was speaking before a meeting of the Redwood City Women's Club.

The small lively woman with the big, easily heard voice said that:

Public telephones are impossible. A dwarf just can't reach the coin box or dial. "But I've met a lot of nice people who are delighted to help me out."

Public restrooms are another problem. "That's why I have the best looking bangs in the country! That's all I can see."

Shoes? Well, when she finds a size four that fits her, she buys them even if they are purple. A friend who wears a smaller size has all of her shoes handmade in Italy at \$65 a pair. "But it's either that or wear Mary Janes forever!"

Dwarf men don't have so much trouble with shoes — boys shoes aren't that different. But her husband, an airplane mechanic, has to have his suits tailor made. "He gets his clothes at the same place Wilt Chamberlain does in San Francisco!"

Dresses? "I hate to see the miniskirts go. It's the first time any of us have been able to buy a dress right off the

rack! Patterns aren't any help either — we just have to learn how to re-model regular clothes."

Houses? The Stickneys own their own home in San Bruno. "It's lower than most houses — but I still have a stool that I kick all over the house so I can reach things."

Shopping? Al Stickney is 4 feet 6 inches tall, so he can reach a little higher, but they still have trouble. "Our family joke is 'What's the matter, you short or something?' I finally quit trying to get things out of the freezer at our favorite market because the manager said I was going to give him a heart attack if I didn't stop teetering on the edge of the freezer and diving in it!"

Jobs? When she first tried to enroll in normal school in her home state, Wisconsin, she was turned down because of her size. The guidance counselor said they couldn't guarantee her a job. She went storming home to her high school principal — who saw that she was enrolled.

Teaching? There was some question raised when she started teaching in the elementary grades. How would she maintain discipline in a classroom with children the same size she was? "Whenever any confusion arose as to who was going to be boss, I made the class a proposition. I told them whoever could touch their head to the floor without

Peninsula family

Redwood City (Calif.) Tribune, Saturday, May 16, 1970—7

bending their knees could be boss!"

"Then I'd put my head on the floor and wave my arms at them. It was quite a sight seeing a whole class full of kids trying to touch their heads to the floor. Of course," the delightfully humorous Mrs. Stickney said, "I made sure there weren't any dwarfs among my pupils!"

One of her pupils complained to her when she had caught him doing something besides his school work, "I think it's illegal for somebody short to sneak up on people like that!"

Other teachers complained, too. "I hate to have a class the year after you have them," one said. "You're always playing ball and stuff with them and how am I going to look out there skipping rope?"

"Of course, my friend was about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed about 190 pounds," Mrs. Stickney explained, "and jumping rope just wasn't her dish!"

Mrs. Stickney is a member of Little People of America, Inc., an organization of dwarfs. But it wasn't her idea to join, she said. "I felt that I

was the best adjusted dwarf in the country and I didn't want to categorize myself."

But her little niece saw the Little People of America in a list of clubs in Life Magazine and mentioned to her aunt that here was a club that nobody else in the family could belong to.

"Not me," she told her niece, "I don't need anything like that."

After all, Mrs. Stickney said, she had been raised on a farm surrounded by four brothers and sisters, dozens of cousins, aunts and uncles, and she'd never been made to feel different from anybody else in the otherwise normal-sized family.

"Oh, at first when I started to school and used to get into fights, I'd holler for my brothers and they'd come running to help out poor little me!"

Then her brothers discovered that she started most of the fights so they told her she'd just have to get herself out of trouble the best way she could!

"And I was always expected to do my share of the chores and housework on the family farm."

"So I really didn't feel that I needed to associate with people who were dwarfs!"

But her niece kept bugging her every day until one day she stood eye to eye with her aunt and said, "Listen, did you ever stop to think that maybe there are little dwarf kids that don't have as nice a family as you have? Don't you think you ought to help them?"

Mrs. Stickney said that caught her with her mouth open and nothing to say. So she sat right down and wrote a letter to the organization, received an instant reply and became involved immediately.

Although she met her husband through LPA, she emphasized that the group is not a lonely hearts club. "It just happens that way."

LPA, she said, was organized in 1957 by Billy Barty, a TV and movie actor, in Las Vegas, Nev. Now a nationwide, voluntary organization, LPA works to help find solutions to problems unique to little people, provide an interchange of ideas, help them find the right jobs, and give hints and suggestions for more convenient living.

The organization helps to

educate the general public, too.

"Contrary to general opinion," Mrs. Stickney said, "only about 3 per cent of the approximately 5,000 dwarfs in the United States are in show business. Most hold regular jobs in the normal world."

A sense of humor is a definite asset for a little person to have. "After all," she continued, "you look in the mirror and you are definitely not a Liz Taylor. So how many Liz Taylors are there?"

It's important to help the "little littles", she said, especially as they reach their teens, so she devotes much of her time to working with parents and their dwarf children through the LPA Parents' Auxiliary.

There are two general types of dwarfism, Mrs. Stickney said. She is the disproportionate type which is caused by a bone deficiency. The well-proportioned dwarf with the small, squeaky voice has a pituitary deficiency.

Al Stickney is chairman for the California, Hawaii, and Nevada district of LPA and anyone interested in obtaining more information about the organization may write to him at Box 633, San Bruno, 94066.



— Tribune photo by Ray De Aragon

Always Looking Up

Automobiles aren't the only things that pose problems for dwarfs like Mrs. Alfred Stickney, a Peninsula lecturer and school teacher. Others include public telephones, restrooms, houses, grocery stores...

Little People Learn They're Not Alone

"I just can't tell you how wonderful it was to take the girl in my arms and float away with her on the dance floor.

"There I was, dancing and enjoying myself with someone my own size for the first time in my life.

"I knew at once what a terrible mistake I had made for so many years — the mistake of avoiding people who are like me."

Richard LaRussa so described his first social contact with members of Little People of America, an organization of dwarfed people.

Skilled Craftsmen

LaRussa, a San Francisco plumber, stands 4 feet 5 inches tall. Plumber? Yes, a full-fledged, card-carrying and working member of the Plumbers Union.

But this is not an unusual attainment for a member of the local chapter of Little People of America.

A. F. "Al" Stickney of San Bruno, 4-2, is a United Airlines aircraft mechanic.

Ronald Hackl of San Lorenzo, 4-1, is a cabinet maker.

Robert Borgan of Larkspur, 4-5, is a landscaper for the State Division of Highways.

Kathy McGuire of San Francisco, 4-5, is a commercial artist employed by the Del Monte Corporation.

Robert East of Hayward, 4-6, is a machinist.

And there are accountants, clerks, factory technicians, secretaries, students, draftsmen, engineers — almost every occupation you can think of — among the chapter's other 125 members.

President

Catherine Nuchols of San Lorenzo, 4-2, is the current chapter president. She estimates about 200 other dwarfed adults and young adults in the Bay Area who hesitate to join because of shyness. Some don't want to come out into the world at all.

Stickney's wife, Harriet, 4-2, is a former elementary school teacher who holds a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin.



CATHERINE NUCHOLS
Leads Little People

Mrs. Stickney plays an important role in the parents auxiliary of the Little People of America. Auxiliary members, who are known to pediatricians throughout the area, assist parents to whom dwarfed children are born, always on the recommendation of the physicians.

"We send an average-size person to visit the parents and tell them their child can lead a normal and happy life," says Mrs. Stickney. "It wouldn't do for one of us to do this at the beginning. The shock of having a dwarfed child is shock enough without have a dwarf walk in on you."

Chapter Meetings

Parents of dwarfed children eventually come to chapter meetings held on the first Friday of every month in the Americana Room of the American Savings and Loan Building, 1601 East 14th St., San Leandro.

There they receive advice they couldn't get anywhere else on the rearing of a dwarfed child.

The Little People don't like to be called midgets ("that's

a circus term; we are dwarfs, and there are about 70 different types of dwarfism").

Nor do they like to be asked if they are really real or how they are discriminated against by people in the "big world."

Problems

They make it clear they know they have problems living in a world designed by and for taller people. They don't regard such things as the height of telephones in most pay booths as an act of discrimination against them by the telephone company.

"We learn to live with these things," says Mrs. Stickney. "A passer-by will always help."

Mrs. Stickney says there seems to be more people with "interior hangups" in the big world than there are in the Little People's world.

She says she simply can't understand this, especially when she observes such hangups in beautiful, average-sized women who seem to have everything going for them.

Kathy McGuire, who edits the chapter's monthly newsletter, has no hangups. In her Christmas letter to chapter members, published in the



ROBERT BORGAN AND HARRIET STICKNEY PONDER THE QUESTIONS
Little People share problems of life as well as happiness

current newsletter, she wrote:

"To you all I wish a very Happy Holiday Season, and a peaceful New Year in '72.

And may we all grow as each year begins."



Just recently received was this photo of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Borgan, who were wed on August 26, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Norman
October 14, 1972

On October 14, 1972, Miss Kathleen McGuire, of District 12, to Mr. Peter Norman, of District 12 in Portola Valley, California. They are making their home in San Francisco, where Kathy is employed by Del Monte Corporation and Peter works for Pacific Telephone Company.



Dist. 12 Convention Fresno April - 1970



Dist. 12 Convention Fresno Fall - 1972

TIME
 MAY 7, 1973
 >
 Dr. David Rimoin
 <
 Director
 of
 SHORT
 STATURE
 CLINIC
 —
 Harbor
 General
 Hospital
 —
 UCLA

Helping the Little People

Since early childhood, Erick Carstensen, 14, has suffered because of his stature: he is a victim of hereditary dwarfism. Erick's contemporaries, who generally towered over him, excluded him from their games. Teachers were often equally unsympathetic, calling him "Shorty" and browbeating him for his inability to keep up with his classmates in physical education. Even the doctors consulted by his parents provided little in the way of relief. Accord-

MEDICINE



U.C.L.A.'S RIMOIN WITH PATIENTS
 Not all are alike.

ing to Erick's mother, Mrs. Dorothy Carstensen of Los Angeles: "They'd all say the same thing: 'Don't worry about it. He'll shoot up overnight.'"

Erick has indeed been growing at a faster rate than most of the other 50,000 dwarfs in the U.S. have experienced. But that is only because he has had expert medical help: six months ago, his mother enrolled him in the dwarf clinic operated by the University of California at Los Angeles, the only facility in the world devoted exclusively to the treatment and study of dwarfism. There, twice a week, he receives an injection of a pituitary hormone, the primary substance that triggers human growth. He has grown 2½ in. (to 4 ft. 10 in.) since treatment was started, and the clinic doctors are confident that he will now reach a height of at least five feet.

Short Supply. The dwarf clinic, now marking its second anniversary, is the creation of Dr. David Rimoin, a U.C.L.A. geneticist and one of the world's leading authorities on dwarfism. Rimoin believes that the condition (which occurs once in every 10,000 births in the U.S.) is almost universally misunderstood, largely because so few doctors have taken the trouble to learn about it. Says he: "To most doctors, all dwarfs look alike."

Most doctors might see only one dwarf professionally during their careers; Rimoin's clinic, located at Los Angeles' Harbor General Hospital and staffed by ten physicians, sees 500 a year. Rimoin and his colleagues can now identify at least 50 types of dwarfism, and have determined the causes of many of these abnormalities. Midg-

MEDICINE

ets, who are tiny but normally proportioned, are usually victims of an underactive pituitary gland, a pea-sized organ at the base of the brain that is largely responsible for the secretion of growth hormone (HGH). Other dwarfs, who tend to have normal-sized heads and trunks but extremely short arms and legs, usually have different hormone deficiencies.

Like Erick, most midgets, or pituitary dwarfs, can be helped to achieve near-normal growth through injections of HGH. But while efforts are under way to synthesize the substance in large amounts, HGH can now be obtained only from the pituitaries of human cadavers, which are in short supply. Rimoin estimates that 25% of the midget population could be helped by hormone therapy; at present, only 10% are able to obtain treatment.

Heaven Sent. The Los Angeles clinic also deals with many of the other problems connected with dwarfism. Some dwarfs have severe spinal defects that can lead to paralysis if not promptly treated. Others suffer from deteriorating vision and a wide variety of orthopedic problems that most doctors cannot correctly diagnose or treat. Mrs. Estrella Sberna of Los Angeles took her daughter Mary Lou, 12, to dozens of different doctors for problems ranging from a cleft palate to flat feet. But it was only at the clinic that Mary Lou began to receive proper treatment after doctors diagnosed her condition as Kniest syndrome, a type of dwarfism in which the cartilage is dotted with holes.

Actor Michael Dunn, 38, who is best known for his performance in the film *Ship of Fools*, consulted several specialists in search of a cure for the arthritis he feared might force him to give up show business. He finally found help at the clinic, where surgeons operated to tighten his knee ligaments and reduce the pain in his legs. That surgery, says Dunn, saved his career.

Others credit the clinic with preserving their sanity. Los Angeles Housewife Shirley Figone, who is normal sized, was upset about her dwarf son Chris, 2, until Rimoin arranged for her to meet a dwarf couple with the opposite problem—their normal-sized daughter was embarrassed by them. The meeting helped breach the isolation that so often surrounds dwarfs and their families. "We're saving a scrapbook for Chris, cutting out any newspaper stories we can find concerning little people," says Mrs. Figone. "We want him to know that he's not alone."

Rimoin believes that most dwarfs can be helped, physically and mentally. Indeed, he says, even Tom Thumb, the midget exhibited and exploited by Circus Impresario P.T. Barnum, could have achieved near-normal growth had treatment been available 100 years ago. But with that treatment, Rimoin admits, Tom would probably never have become rich and famous.

Thyroid Hormone

They Help Children Grow

NEWINGTON, Conn. (AP) they see a child driving.
— A 25-year-old Connecticut woman is "stopped all the time" by police who think death" because her 11-year-old son has not grown in three

years.

Both are among an increasing number of people seeking help at the Newington Children's Hospital growth clinic, one of about 50 such hospitals across the country. The clinic offers growth-producing injections to patients who qualify and emotional counseling to those who do not.

Eleven-year-old Brendan Flynn of Wethersfield has been a patient for about six months. "Sometimes, but not very often," he worries about his height, which, at 50 inches is average for a child three years younger.

Brendan's mother thinks the worry is inside him, noting he "was having a lot of stomach aches."

Doctors don't know yet why Brendan, an active youngster who enjoys swimming and horseback riding, suddenly stopped growing three years ago. His mother says: "When a little boy wears the same pair of pants for three years, that unusual."

People stop growing for a variety of reasons, according to the program's founder, Dr. Frederick Flynn. A lack of thyroid or pituitary-growth hormones causes shortness, as well as malnutrition and emotional factors.

"Children who are emotionally disturbed . . . literally turn off their growth hormone," said Flynn. He said a

divorce or nervous breakdown in the family could stunt a child's growth. Injections won't help these children.

For others, however, there is the chance of help from a two-year program conducted by the hospital with the University of Connecticut and Yale University. Newington is treating 23 patients with thyroid hormone or with human growth hormone, a substance taken from the pituitary glands of cadavers.

The hormone is rare. It takes 1½ pituitary glands to treat one person for one week. Because of a grant by the National Institute of Health, patients at Newington do not have to pay for the hormone, which costs about \$5,000 per patient per year, although they do pay other treatment costs.

Reactions to the hormone vary.

"Some kids actually get depressed . . . because they were used to being the cute little thing. Others have the opposite reaction, starting to act like King Kong," said Dr. Raymond Hintz, clinic director.

Hintz said doctors "try not to give them too much in the way of expectations. A lot so desperately want to be taller that a couple inches aren't enough for them."

He stressed that the hormone cannot make people

taller than they ordinarily should be. "We can't make them into a basketball team," he added.

Flynn said emotional counseling benefits both those taking the hormone and those who are destined to be short.

Flynn noted that a person is considered an adult when he stops growing, when his bones fuse permanently. People whose growth is retarded "don't mature, so they remain children indefinitely." Even when a patient grows he is still a small person in his mind.

'Little people' have problem finding work

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Steve Nerden hopped onto a sofa with its legs cut off and said the only problem with being 4 foot 2 is getting a job to support your family.

"We don't figure we're handicapped . . . we just figure it's harder'n hell to get a job," Nerden said about himself and his 4-foot-tall wife of three months, Patricia.

"You have to prove yourself to everybody. Most people won't give you a chance," he said.

Nerden is 21 years old, 10 days older than his wife. He's working as a janitor at the Boulder County Human Resources Department, earning \$16 a night with the promise of morning work in the future. Mrs. Nerden can't find work, although she was trained as a pediatric nurse's aide in her hometown of Rawlins, Wyo.

"She wants to get something working with kids. Like she says, kids are scared of a big lady in white but not of a little person," Nerden said. "The problem is that apparently not many people agree with her."

7-30-75
Daily Review



Midget bartender Parnell St. Aubin doesn't have to stretch to serve normal-sized customers from behind his specially made bar. Parnell calls his saloon The Midget Club.

This midget from 'Oz' pours tall drinks at his own custom-sized bar

Parnell St. Aubin is the world's smallest bartender — he's only 3-foot-8.

But at The Midget Club — Parnell's own bar on Chicago's tough South Side — he's the boss and his six-foot-tall customers toe the line.

The pint-sized pint server, who was once a star in "The Wizard of Oz," has been a bartender for 35 of his 57 years. He and his petite wife Mary Ellen opened The Midget Club more than 21 years ago.

"She's the same size as me," the boss at The Midget Club told The NEWS. "But she looks taller because she wears high heels, and I don't."

"I had everything made to order so I could operate it," Parnell said of his tavern.

The bar is a mere 32 inches from the floor, instead of the

standard 44. Even the telephone was lowered a foot to accommodate the short proprietors.

"But 99 percent of our customers are regular people, big folks," said St. Aubin.

"All the midgets are in California, Florida, or in Nevada. They like the warm weather."

There's nothing the little man likes better than tending bar — not even show business, which he's tried twice.

"I was with the 'Scrub Club,' a Saturday morning TV show for kids here about 25 years ago," he said.

"They had me dressed up like a little pig."

Before that he was one of the Munchkins in "The Wizard of Oz."

Dozens of other midgets acted in the 1939 movie. But there are no reunions.



Billy Barty, a veteran movie midget whose credits include "The Wizard of Oz" receives a surprise visit from his wife, played by comedian Flip Wilson and looking like something that just arrived from over the rainbow in the Columbia Pictures release "Skatetown USA" now playing in local theaters.

Associated Press

'LPA is lightswitch stick'

By Ed Lang
LPA News Editor

Frieda and Pete Valuckas of District-11 were the first recipients of LPA's Distinguished Service Award in Lancaster, Pa. 1979 National Con-

s award was not for just one year of two or three. Between Frieda and more than 32 years of service to LPA. right now are the co-chairmen for n Committee. In addition to this uckas's are longtime District-11 da served as foreign correspondent on from 1969-1976. She also was in h and the bibliography of the LPA

right now are the co-chairmen for n Committee. In addition to this uckas's are longtime District-11 da served as foreign correspondent on from 1969-1976. She also was in h and the bibliography of the LPA

alls that when she first joined LPA, tely different attitude towards the other tall parent and her short first contacted me about the club," ell the child had had some brain made me feel superior because I felt her."

ened when you encountered your le People?

in Portland. I had taken the train up ttle Pacific University) and at the six Achondros waiting. I could have

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was.

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q...Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q...You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q...Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q...Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA. I got a lot of support professionally, I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q...You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978, We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in January and Connie is eight.

A Beautiful Life of a Little Person Who Always Thought Big



The Story of John Phillips Strudwick As Seen By His Parents

F. Nash and Priscilla P. Strudwick
228 S. Clairmont Drive
Salisbury, Md.
1976



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

and your little person. A little person must early in his life be taught to strive to accomplish those things that he can do, and to accept those things that are - in fact - impossible for him to achieve. Never, under circumstance, say "You'll be big someday!" The doctor sets a relative height that may be attained - and this should be set as a goal - give a little. As hard as we tried to make John realize what his potential in height would be, he told me in later years, that he never really believed it until he was in the fourth grade, and that by then he really didn't care. His life was so attuned to the regular pace of the every day world, that it just didn't concern him.

I worried about Mary - at age four, she couldn't understand that her brother was going to be little all his life, and was going to require much attention and care. We didn't want her to resent him, and we wanted to give to her all the time that she required for her "growing up". I shouldn't have worried - it was the easiest hurdle to jump. The solution was to let her help with the care of John, and to maintain the same pace of life, as nearly as possible, as we had lived before. In other words, just go along in the normal pattern of life for her, and that's all there was to it. It was a successful motif of behavior, for until the last days of John's life, her friends would come in and say, "Where's this great brother that we've heard so much about?"

I worried about Nash - it was so hard for him to accept. He loved John so very much, that he felt a great guilt that we had conceived a little person who would have to fight so many battles in the process of growing up. He could never completely divorce himself from 1) what other people thought 2) what other people did 3) what other people said. His reason was not a selfish one - conversely - he hated to see John hurt, for when he was hurt, it hurt Nash doubly. What he failed to see was that John was unaware of many of the hurts that Nash, as a father, could see. A good example! John couldn't be in Little League - his friends created a game with a whiffle ball and bat and a baseball field in our own yard. John could watch the Little League game, but the big games were in the front yard, after school, after Little League games, and in the summer-time until the mothers called them to come home. The inability to compete in the "big thing" actually nurtured a far greater prize - the healthy ruff and tumble of young boys whose friendships later helped John to cope with the difficult phases of teen-age growing-up.

Nash was a wonderful father to John. He always felt that he hadn't given enough and that he hadn't understood John as well as he should. Not so! He did all the things a father should do -- camping, boating, fishing, swimming, Boy Scout leader and on and on. But most important of all, he made John feel important, and gave to him a will to achieve and to perform with successful results in this world. He consulted with John on decisions, big and small - he listened to John and guided him, taught him to weigh the pros and cons, and then to make a final decision. He taught him to set a goal for himself and then to build the steps that would lead to that goal. But most of all, John knew that his father had faith in him. What more could a father do?

In all honesty - I confess - one thing hurt us both. Very Much! John loved the girls - he always wanted a special girlfriend. It hurt, to see him wish that he had a special date for the dance or show or game. He went along and participated in everything, and all the girls were good to him. In fact, especially so! Still he couldn't have that special relationship that he so desired. Of course, time would have cured this situation, for there is no doubt in my mind that he would have met a lovely little person to be his partner in life.

We taught John to treat the public with compassion and to educate



them into the ways of a little person. Never be antagonistic towards an uneducated public. When a problem occurs, attack it, face it immediately. 1) Schedule a meeting with the person or institution involved. 2) Present your problem. 3) Present your suggested solution to the problem. 4) Listen to their problem and their suggested solution. 5) Come to a compromise. 6) MOST IMPORTANT: Remember that you, also, must abide by the rules. I really believe that by following these steps, John was able to veer away from the so called "chip on the shoulder" syndrome.

And so-- our dear John grew and developed a beautiful life for his twenty-two years. He gave and gave and gave. He participated - in the church, the community, politics-- his interest was unbounded. His horizon was never limited, there was always something else to do, something else that he had to tackle. When the world would not reach out to him, he reached out to it, and literally encompassed the ones he touched with his love. His courage and determination, his compassion for others, his moral values, his lack of self-pity, and his pure joy in life touched far more people than we can imagine. His hearty laugh and genuine sense of humor eased many a burdened soul. As a family, he taught us to appreciate and to be aware of the many things in life that we heretofore had taken for granted.

John attained his educational goals. He graduated from Wesley College with honors and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, honorary scholarship fraternity. As Student Government President of Wesley College, he represented his college--with strength in his convictions--and accomplished the goals he had set for his tenure in office. Again in Salisbury State College, he was inducted into Psi Chi, honorary psychology fraternity. With others, he helped to establish Sigma Nu fraternity on the SSC campus--the first social fraternity on campus. His goal was to be a counselor for the vocational rehabilitation field, and he had been accepted at Loyola College for his graduate study. Many times John received recognition for his accomplishments-- e.g. Soroptimist award for service, recognition of his help in political campaigns. So you see, in his short span of life he accomplished what many do not attain in their full span of years.

God gave us a special gift in a small size, and John reached out to the world with joy, and love, and the world loved him in return.



'LPA is lightswitch stick'

luckas of District-11 were the s Distinguished Service Award aster, Pa. 1979 National Con-

ard was not for just one year of r three. Between Frieda and an 32 years of service to LPA. t now are the co-chairmen for mmittee. In addition to this s's are longtime District-11 erved as foreign correspondent om 1969-1976. She also was in d the bibliography of the LPA

t now are the co-chairmen for mmittee. In addition to this s's are longtime District-11 erved as foreign correspondent om 1969-1976. She also was in d the bibliography of the LPA

at when she first joined LPA, different attitude towards the r tall parent and her short contacted me about the club." e child had had some brain me feel superior because I felt

when you encountered your people?

Portland. I had taken the train up Pacific University) and at the chondros waiting. I could have



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was.

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q...Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q...You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q...Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q...Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA. I got a lot of support professionally. I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q...You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978, We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in January and Connie is eight.

MY FEELINGS AS A FATHER

Someone once said, "Some of God's miracles are small, but nevertheless we should continue to share them." Yes, John was a little person in stature but a big man just the same, and so Pat and I as parents were blessed in the opportunity and privilege of seeing this young man grow consistently during his twenty-two years. Born with many physical handicaps, he made great strides in overcoming them, and in doing so, he impressed and inspired many people by his words and actions. We shall never know the extent of the problems he had to face, nor the inspirations that he gave to others, but those who knew him or knew of him could appreciate his performance, and so we are pleased to share our experiences.

Shortly after John was born in October 1953, Pat and I took him to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to confirm diagnosis that had been made locally. We were informed that we would have no more children, so with our daughter Mary, who was four years old, we faced a future of apprehension in raising him. However, we soon found that love, acceptance, and understanding overcame many difficult times.

After many hospital visits to correct his club feet, he was able to walk when he was five years old, his cleft palate was corrected by skillful surgeons at Johns Hopkins, and he learned to talk in the first grade by going to a special school in Wilmington, Delaware, where he lived with Pat and Mary during the week in an apartment for fourteen months--driving back and forth for weekends at home where I remained. Operations for hernia and appendicitis were accomplished later at the local hospital. However, as he grew slowly, his spine began to curve, so braces were fabricated that he wore practically all the time during his high school years. After an extra year in high school, his braces were removed. He entered Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, where he managed successfully. However, he was told that an operation would someday be necessary to relieve the increasing pressure on his heart and lungs. Having graduated from Wesley and two years later at Salisbury State College, and then wanting to get a master's degree, he decided to have the spinal fusion operation at the DuPont Institute in Wilmington and then go to graduate school in Baltimore after a year's recuperation.

John's death following the operation in June 1976 was a shock to me, because he had overcome so many obstacles, so I was optimistic as to his future.

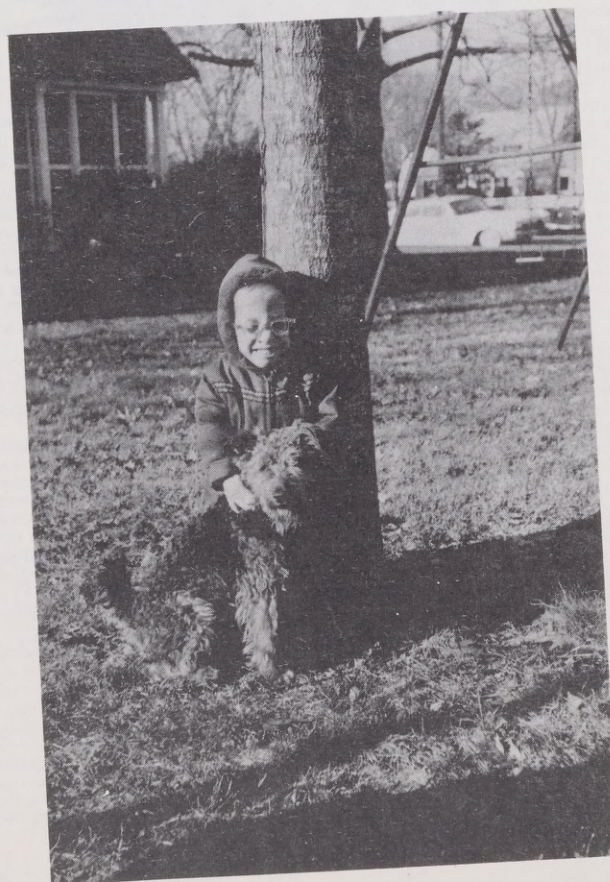
Shortly after his birth, it was difficult for me to accept the fact that he was a dwarf or a little person, because I had never known one or heard of any in our family. However, from the start, his wonderful mother made both him and me accept reality. Nevertheless, it was difficult for me to accept the stares and tactless remarks of those who knew no better, and the difficulties that John encountered all the time. My thoughts would often question as to why did this happen to me, to us, and especially to him?

However, as time passed, I realized that God had given our family a wonderful gift and a wonderful experience because he had given us someone who in turn gave. John made us appreciate things that we had taken for granted and see things we had never seen before--good things--wonderful things--especially love. Through his actions and conversations we knew he had no chip on his shoulder, for he had accepted what God had given him. Watching him stand on the sidelines while watching his friends play ball, trying to get a date during his high school and college days, trying to get something off a shelf or counter, trying to keep up with his

friends walking and similar occurrences made me very uneasy, but John took things in stride whenever possible and overcame them--e.g. learning to drive with extensions on the controls of the car, and finally getting a date to the high school senior prom.

I did not know John as well as I wanted to because I did not want to be over protective and felt that he should associate with his own friends as much as possible. He did this and I am so thankful that so many accepted him as he was. Of course we went camping, fishing, touring the country, to ball games, visiting, etc. as families do, but in retrospect, I wish that I had known him better, for he, as a little person, was something special even though he was my only son.

The expression "For whom the bells toll" is not for John, but I feel for me and the many people who had the privilege of knowing him and were saddened by his death. For on the basis of his twenty-two years, he did accomplish despite his handicaps, what many of us are trying to do, which he expressed by his creed, in the giving and acceptance of love. So God's gift to us was not small but beautiful in many many ways.



'LPA is lightswitch stick'

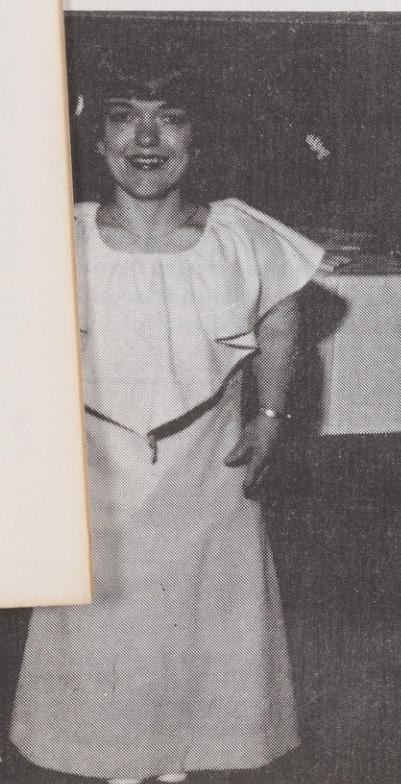
Valuckas of District-11 were the LPA's Distinguished Service Award Lancaster, Pa. 1979 National Con-

award was not for just one year of or three. Between Frieda and than 32 years of service to LPA. ght now are the co-chairmen for Committee. In addition to this kas's are longtime District-11 served as foreign correspondent from 1969-1976. She also was in nd the bibliography of the LPA

ht now are the co-chairmen for ommittee. In addition to this as's are longtime District-11 served as foreign correspondent rom 1969-1976. She also was in d the bibliography of the LPA

at when she first joined LPA, different attitude towards the r tall parent and her short contacted me about the club," e child had had some brain me feel superior because I felt

when you encountered your ople? tland. I had taken the train up acific University) and at the hondros waiting. I could have



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was.

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q... Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q... You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q... Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q... Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA, I got a lot of support professionally, I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q... You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978, We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in Jaunary and Connie is eight.

He's Class President

Wesley Looks Up to Its Little Man

By TOM TEIDE

DOVER — Most young men have trouble with young women but John Strudwick says with him it's ridiculous.

He remembers trying to get a date once and had to ask 14 different girls. "When the 14th one said yes, I couldn't believe it. I said, 'What did you say?' And she said 'yes.' Then she said 'great.' I tell you I almost fell over."

If Strudwick had fallen over, it would not have been far. He's 19 years old, but only 3 feet 8 inches tall. Society calls him a midget or a dwarf. He calls himself a "little person." Either way he has a hell of a time getting dates.

Grumps he with a wrinkled brow: "It's the old Charles Atlas syndrome. Most women think men should be big and handsome and have muscles all over. Well, I'm not big and I don't have muscles but I think I've got some other things going for me."

Indeed, John Strudwick is the biggest little man on Dover's Wesley Junior College campus. A second-year student in psychology, he's president of his class. Physically, of course, everyone looks down on him; but, says a puckish friend, "in the ways that count we all look up to the little guy."

And this is okay with Strudwick. In "the ways that count" he wants equality. Like with women: "I was trying to get a date a few weeks ago and this one girl said to me: 'Why don't you go out with somebody your own size?' Well, I don't buy that. Everybody's the same size to me. I don't go around asking if a girl is 5 feet 2 and I don't expect them to ask how tall I am. If it clicks between me and a girl that's all that matters."

The opinion, given tradition, is brash. John Strudwick is saying that one of these years he may stake a claim on some chick—and bother the difference in inches. This is hardly the talk of a dwarf in his place. Years ago such cheek would not have been tolerated and someone, no doubt laughing all the way, would have stuck Strudwick's head on the end of a stick.

In history, if a dwarf wasn't outrunning the stones thrown by village children, he was taken as a toy for the social elite. The courts of pre-Renaissance Europe were salted with little people acting the fool. The hunchback midget of Philip IV (Spain) was painted by Velasquez; there are persistent rumors that royal French women got their jollies by taking dwarfs to bed; and so necessary was it to have court jesters in Rome that artificial dwarfing was practiced.

Even today, actually, the old customs have not passed fully away. Little people are still the objects of amusement. Some continue to be sideshow freaks, other are unwittingly so in the everyday circus of the passing scene. And TV types such as Johnny Carson—who is painfully adept at demeaning humor—can get nervous chuckles with old gags such as: Did you hear about the suicidal midget who tried to leap from his platform shoes?

But for all baffle of the past and present, John Strudwick and a good many other midgets (there are perhaps 100,000 people under 58 inches



John Strudwick
He wants dates.

es tall in America) are reaching for higher things. Like dignity. Like understanding. And, of course, "Like the push button on the elevator in the student union building. I've got to use a pencil to get to the blasted thing."

There is, therefore, as in so many areas of society today, a Midget Movement taking place. Two thousand small persons have joined a group called "Little People of America." Members protest social misunderstanding ("It's hell getting served a child's plate in a restaurant"), prevailing myths ("When I was a kid the other kids wouldn't touch me because they were afraid they'd get warts") and single-minded architecture which builds hamburger counters and grocery shelves to high that anybody under five feet has to carry around a ladder.

For his part, John Strudwick applauds the national cause and does what he can on the local level as well. He wants the Wesley student library, for example, to upgrade and update material on little people. He says it now contains only a few paragraphs of facts. He says at the very least the library material should answer basic questions about dwarfism: Is it contagious? Is it hereditary? Is it a disease? The answers to the questions, by the way, are No, Not necessarily, and Sometimes.

But most of all, Strudwick is working to assure people that, though he wears size 10 shirts, he wants, accepts and carries out size 42 responsibilities. "I can do most of the things anyone else can. I get good grades (dean's list), I have ideas for the school (he wants to do away with a mandatory curfew for women students), I even play a pretty good game of table tennis, (although, he admits, he can't hit the high ones)." In sum, he sighs, "I'm an adult. I want everybody to act like I am."

And by and large, everybody does. Except the girls. "I still have the damndest time with them." But never mind. Eventually, he believes, this will work out too. In fact, this summer he had several dates at the Little People of America convention; and, not a prejudiced person, he finds the little chicks are good-looking, too.

Newspaper Enterprise Association

THE SUNDAY TIMES B-1

Salisbury, Md., Sat., June 2, 1974

Little Person Here Has No Troubles Dealing With Life

By REENIE MCALLISTER
Of The Times Staff
Here's a little man with great big aspirations.

John Strudwick of S. Clairmont Drive is a little person. He is not even four feet tall. But, John's made it past his 20th birthday, and quite successfully too.

He's a graduate of James M. Bennett Senior High School and Wesley College in Dover. He was elected president of the Student Government Association in his second year of college. He was a dean's list student all the way through and has plans of beginning an educational psychology.

John has adapted to being little very well. "If there's something you have to do," he said, "there's always a way. You have to adapt or you can't survive. That is nature."

John had to make many adjustments in his life to strange and sometimes, uncomfortable, situations. He's learned that to make a phone call from a telephone booth, he has to get up on the seat to dial the number. A problem arises, though, when the booths come without seats.

"Then I have to ask someone to dial the number for me. I asked a sailor one time at a bus station. People are usually very cooperative. When I'm in the library, the librarians always ask me if they can help me get a book from the shelf."

While in high school, John worked at Burger Chef on the weekends and then full time in the summer. He got the stock when needed, cooked hamburgers, french fries and apple pies, cleaned tables and ran errands—the same duties as the rest of his co-workers. Only one difference—John used a bench to accomplish most of the chores.

It's just something he got used to—using benches, stools, chairs, and tables—anything to make life a little easier. He finds a pencil comes in handy, when trying to reach elevator buttons.

John admits that a lot of people know him, yet he doesn't know all of them. Becoming SGA president might have something to do with this popularity.

"EVERYONE KNEW me because there were only 800 students," John said. "I made it known that I wanted the job. I was geared in the political area anyway and I thought that if I wanted to get into politics later, I should get my hands wet now. John plans to attend Western



LITTLE BUT BIG. John Strudwick is a little man but carries big responsibilities. Here he is shown holding the gavel awarded him by the president of Wesley College, Robert H. Parker, for being a past Student Government Association (SGA) president. While in office, John worked hard to have the mandatory curfew for women dormitory students lifted. He was successful.

Maryland College in Westminster in the fall, where he'll be majoring in psychology. He left the political science and history field because of the likelihood of job availability when he's out of school.

When asked if he intends to become politically involved when at Western Maryland, John replied: "I'm planning on concentrating on my major mostly. I've got to work for the grades I get. If I study, it comes pretty easy. But, there are some courses that even when you study, they are still hard."

Right now, John is working at the Lower Shore Sheltered Workshop on Snow Hill Rd. He went job searching for over a week, after he returned from Wesley.

"I want to try to buy a car when I get out of college," he said. "I wanted to get a job dealing with people, heading toward my field, but it was hard to find. This is a good job and I'm trying to make some money for a car."

IN 1966 John joined an organization called Little People of America (LPA). They offer social life, entertainment and a chance to share similar experiences with other little people.

Problems with jobs, school and helpful hints in making life more convenient, are discussed at the meetings and conventions of the Little People of America. "I've had no problem in being accepted in Salisbury," John explained. "But, some little people feel alone, like in a different world. Little People of America can help them by showing that we have to co-exist and mingle. There's only one world, one universe. We all have to live together."

There's no age requirement to join Little People of America. John said that at a convention he saw a baby with his parents and even, a man 90 years old.

There are 12 districts of Little People of America. John belongs to District III, which includes Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and the District of Columbia. There are over 2,000 little people, who are members in the 12 districts. District III is hosting the LPA convention this year at Asheville, N.C., from July 22 to 27.

John will be going and taking part in such events as car tours, talent shows, dances, ball games, cruises, bowling, fashion shows, viewing historical sights, banquets, carnivals and listening to special guest speakers.

John added that Dr. Victor McKusick, who practices at Johns Hopkins Hospital, is often a guest speaker at the LPA's events.

One practical hint, given by Little People of America, provided John with the ability to drive. Through LPA, John and his father learned of a man named Bob East in California, who makes extensions for the brake and gas pedals of cars.

John is interested in hearing from any person four feet and 10 inches tall or under who may be interested in joining Little People of America.

Since little people are often shy, John asks that if anyone knows a little person, he be contacted so that he can help acquaint them with Little People of America.

'LPA is lightswitch stick'

Valuckas of District-11 were the PA's Distinguished Service Award Lancaster, Pa. 1979 National Con-

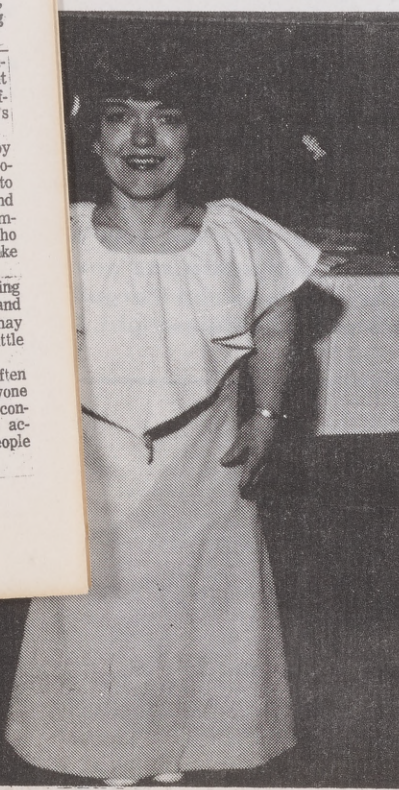
award was not for just one year of or three. Between Frieda and e than 32 years of service to LPA. ight now are the co-chairmen for Committee. In addition to this kas's are longtime District-11 served as foreign correspondent from 1969-1976. She also was in nd the bibliography of the LPA

ght now are the co-chairmen for Committee. In addition to this as's are longtime District-11 served as foreign correspondent rom 1969-1976. She also was in d the bibliography of the LPA

hat when she first joined LPA, different attitude towards the r tall parent and her short contacted me about the club," e child had had some brain me feel superior because I felt

when you encountered your ople?

tland. I had taken the train up acific University) and at the hondros waiting. I could have



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was.

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q... Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q... You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q... Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q... Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA. I got a lot of support professionally. I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q... You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978, We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in January and Connie is eight.



Editor's Scratch Pad

By DICK MOORE
Times Editor

Fate plays cruel tricks on some of us. And certainly being only 3 feet, 8 inches tall qualifies as one of them.

A person so structured must face immense mental problems in coping with the situation. One who does so scores a greater victory in life than do the rest of us who are normal in most respects.

Such a person was John Phillips Strudwick who was buried here Tuesday following services in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Unusual circumstances call for unusual ceremonies, in this case a deviation by the minister from the Episcopal

burial service for additional remarks.

The Rev. Harry Riddle Johnson, rector, said John's keen mind and curiosity led him into numerous adventures of study and projects and relationships far beyond our locale and in ways in which we are not aware of.

"His activities in all areas of life enlarged his horizons above the limits of his physical capabilities and his age. John was a man of accomplishment who achieved more than most of us have had or will have, three times his span of 22 years," the minister said.

"Thanks to God for the victory — victory, that's what we have seen — Not only did he never give in — John met the challenges — and he won!"

John was a native of this city, the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Nash Strudwick of 228 S. Claremont Dr. He was a self-described little person whose achievements rival those of the biggest and best of human beings.

He had been active in Little People of America, a national organization dedicated to helping people overcome the handicap of unusual smallness.

He was once featured in this newspaper and also in others. "I can do most of things anyone else can," he often said. "I'm an adult and I want everybody to act like I am."

AT WESLEY College, Dover, he served as student government president, graduated with honors and subsequently attended Western Maryland and Salisbury State College where he majored in psychology. And, he was a member of two national scholastic honor societies. He was active in founding a chapter of Sigma Nu national collegiate fraternity here at Salisbury State.

A personal recollection of John was at a gala midwinter ball here in Salisbury where he was on the floor dancing with the most lively, doing the latest steps.

John was also very religious and devoted to his faith. Like other boys and growing youths, he had things pasted on his bedroom wall such as others do, words to live by in both a humorous and serious vein.

One of these was a piece written by Walter Rinder, entitled "Spectrum of Love." His father said it was printed scroll-like

and was hanging on the wall of his bedroom. It was his creed.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson made a further departure from the church ritual when he read it aloud. Here are some excerpts from it:

"For me to love is to commit myself, freely and without reservation. . . . Whatever your needs are, I will try to fulfill them. . . . I will try to be constant. . . . I may falter with my moods. . . . I may project at times a strangeness that is alien to you which may bewilder and frighten you. . . . All things in life I find beautiful. . . . I want to become a truly loving spirit. . . ."

With this outlook on love and its importance, the minister could confidently say as he neared the close of the eulogy:

"I can well imagine, no — more than that — I know! He stands large and glorious in the company of heaven."

John Strudwick, a little person but big man. He got more out of life than most of us through determination to love and be loved.



Spotlight on People

Just Say 'I Am'

Dover, Del.—Many young men have trouble getting dates. Usually this isn't a serious problem. But it is for John Strudwick. "My dating problem is unbelievable," he says.

Strudwick remembers trying to get a date once and having to ask 14 different girls. "When the 14th one said yes, I couldn't believe it."

Why does Strudwick have so much trouble? Well, he has a height problem. He's 3 feet 8 inches tall.

Some people call Strudwick a

midget or a dwarf. But he calls himself a "little person."

"Strudwick is a very important guy here at Dover Wesley Junior College," says a friend. "He's president of his class. And he's a top student. In the ways that count we all look up to the little guy."

Some people can say, "I am big." Others can say, "I am little." But Strudwick would like people to forget big and little. "Just say I am," he says. "That's good enough."

Wesley Alumni News-1976 1974



On June 19 Wesley's "Little Man," John P. Strudwick, who stood 3 feet, 8 inches tall in his stockinged feet but 10 feet tall in his indomitable spirit, succumbed to complications arising from surgery at Delaware Division in Wilmington, DE. At 22 years of age John had accomplished more than many do in a much longer lifetime. Despite the handicap of his height he earned recognition of his adult capabilities. He served as president of his freshman class at Wesley and president of the Student Government Association during his

sophomore year. He was on the Dean's list and graduated with honors, subsequently attending Western Maryland College and graduating this year from Salisbury (MD) State College where he majored in psychology. John was a member of two national scholastic honor societies and instrumental in establishing a chapter of Sigma Nu national collegiate fraternity at Salisbury State. He was active for several years in Little People of America, a nationwide organization of persons who are dedicated to overcoming limitations imposed by their height. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Nash Strudwick of Salisbury, MD and a sister, Mary. Donations are being accepted to the John P. Strudwick Memorial Fund established at Wesley College by friends.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

© 1973 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1973

Problems of Dwarfs In an Oversized World Gain More Attention

'Little People of America' Fight Job Bias, Social Ostracism, Out-of-Reach Public Facilities

By JOANN S. LUBIN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
OAKLAND, Calif. — John Strudwick, Lee Kitchens and Harriet Stickney have spent their lives adjusting to a world that is the wrong size.

They are dwarfs, and for them and all other people of abnormally small stature, the simplest of daily tasks can be infuriatingly difficult. Out-of-reach elevator buttons, public telephones and closed racks present frustrating obstacles unknown to average-sized adults.

Far worse, however, is the struggle against parental overprotection, social ostracism and job discrimination that is painfully familiar to nearly everyone who shares this handicap. Until Mr. Kitchens was 16, for example, his mother insisted on helping him cross the street. Mr. Strudwick was turned down by 14 girls before he got a date for his high school senior prom. And although she had a master's degree and eight years' teaching experience in her hometown of Sheboygan, Wis., Mrs. Stickney couldn't find a job when she moved to suburban Milwaukee.

Power to the Little People
Today, however, most of the painful times are behind them. Like many of the nation's estimated 100,000 dwarfs, they are showing new determination to overturn long-standing barriers of discrimination and ignorance and to win broader acceptance in society. Especially vocal in demanding increased recognition for the unique problems of dwarfs is a national organization called Little People of America Inc. Movie actor Billy Barty, a dwarf, founded the group in 1957 to educate the public and help dwarfs overcome their social, medical and physical problems.

While dwarfs organize for mutual support and self-help, medical researchers are taking a renewed interest in treating and preventing dwarfism. The promise of normal growth can still be offered to only a few, but scientists believe they are on the threshold of dramatic gains.

There are two major types of dwarfism, arbitrarily defined as adult height of under four feet 10 inches. Disproportionate dwarfs have short limbs, but their heads and trunks are normal. Proportionate dwarfs, commonly called midgets, look like average-sized people in miniature. In nearly all cases, dwarfism affects only physical appearances, not intelligence.

At the Little People's 15th national convention here this summer, 300 of the group's 2,000 members consulted with medical geneticists and talked about how to survive as "little people," as they call themselves.

Fending for Themselves
Most members have adapted remarkably well to the physical frustrations of their size. Many, afraid of being thought helpless or "crippled," exhibit a plucky independence. Mrs. Stickney who is four-feet-two-inches tall, says she sometimes climbs right into the frozen-food compartments at grocery stores to reach the orange juice. And Lee Kitchens, now a successful engineer with Texas Instruments Inc., carries a collapsible accelerator pedal extension in his briefcase that he fits on the rented cars he drives on business trips. A similar device enables him to pilot his own plane.

In an effort to make their physical environment more convenient, The Little People of

America has recently joined forces with other organizations, such as the California Association of the Physically Handicapped. This group has successfully lobbied for state laws requiring lower pay phones, curbside ramps and railings in public toilets—all to benefit people confined to wheelchairs. Richard Wooten, president of the association, told the Little People's convention that dwarfs and people in wheelchairs "share a common problem—the height of things."

The handicap of short stature gives employers a good excuse to refuse to hire dwarfs. "It's all too easy for a potential employer to look at a four-foot-two adult and say, 'Oh my gosh, that person can't handle a job,'" Mrs. Stickney complains. School superintendents in Milwaukee doubted that she could discipline a class. "They wouldn't touch me with a 10-foot pole," she recalls. "They weren't sure how their public would react."

Another dwarf with a Ph.D. in chemistry was turned down for a research job by several major drug firms "on the ground that he wouldn't be able to reach the laboratory instruments. His would-be employers ignored the fact that he had managed well enough in the laboratory to get his doctorate."

Plumbers and "Little Oscars"
Of course, some dwarfs take advantage of their size and work as entertainers. Mr. Barty, for example, has appeared in 120 movies. Others become sales promotional representatives for firms like Oscar Mayer & Co., a Madison, Wis., meat packer that uses five midgets as "Little Oscars."

Some little people even hold physically demanding jobs. Rick LaRussa, a plumber, says customers are shocked when he appears at their door. "They tell me, 'I called a plumber, not a two-foot-two midget,'" he says. (The 26-year-old San Franciscan is actually four-feet-three.) With the aid of a stepladder, he says, "I

Plouze Turn to Page 25, Column 1

Problems of Dwarfs Gain Attention As They Fight Job Bias, Ostracism

Continued From Page One

can do anything a normal-sized plumber can, except lift a heavy pipe or a 200-pound bathtub."

Employers are often less concerned by the physical strain of the work than they are about the reactions of co-workers. "Social acceptance is the greatest problem for a little person in getting a job," says Ron Kaminski, the head of the San Francisco office of California's Department of Rehabilitation.

Social difficulties often begin early in life, when parents become aware of their child's birth defect. "Parents go through a period of mourning at first for the loss of their perfect child," says Joan Weiss, a social worker for the Moore Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, the nation's leading dwarfism research center.

Once they've accepted their child's dwarfism, some parents become overly protective. Mr. Kitchens reacted to such treatment by developing a strong streak of independence. "My parents wouldn't let me drive a car in high school," he says, "so I went to college, earned enough money to buy my own car and taught myself to drive with pedal attachments."

Many dwarf children quickly learn how to cope with being taunted and "babied" by their schoolmates. One dwarf in the fifth grade who was persistently teased finally replied, "Don't you know? My mother puts me in the dryer every night." And when a fourth-grader grew weary of being carried around the playground "like a big living doll," her mother says, she began kicking anyone who tried.

Agonizing Rejections

Few children are prepared for what many little people say is the worst crisis: dating and finding a mate. "They probably go through five times the agony all teens go through," observes Miss Weiss. In John Strudwick's case, one girl who turned down his prom invitation told him, "Well, why don't you run around with your own kind?" He says now: "That wasn't easy, since I was the only dwarf at my school." Another girl told him, "Little People of America ought to set up a segregated community of Lilliputian-sized people." Mr. Strudwick, who stands four-feet-four-inches tall, weathered these hurts and went on to win election as student body president of Wesley Junior College in Dover, Del., last spring. He wants to go into politics some day "after all the old wives' tales about dwarfs are done away with."

Mindful of the members' dating problems, Little People of America provides a busy social schedule so that dwarfs can meet members of the opposite sex who are their own size. "It was nice to go to a national convention, ask a girl to dance and not have to look up at her for a change," Mr. LaRussa says. Overnight romances bloom during the convention. "Did you hear about the saxophone player?" guesses one dwarf woman to another. "He got engaged on the boat trip this week." Mr. Barty guesses

that 75% of the married couples in LPA met through the organization.

Eventually, medical science may see to it that fewer dwarfs face such adjustment problems. Some dwarf children can already be cured, and the prospect is good that many more will achieve average height in years to come.

Since 1965, the Moore Clinic has treated some 1,500 dwarfs for special medical prob-

lems such as premature arthritis and bow-leggedness. Clinic doctors try to isolate the cause of each patient's handicap from the more than 70 possible causes of dwarfism. These range from hormonal failure and defective genes to bone diseases and inadequate nutrition. An accurate diagnosis is important in family planning, as it can determine whether the condition will be passed on to a dwarf's children. (Not all types of dwarfism are inherited.) And, if made early enough, the diagnosis can sometimes lead to a cure.

The Human Growth Hormone
Over the past 10 years, some 2,000 midget children have been able to grow as tall as five-foot-four after being injected with Human

Growth Hormone, or HGH, which is secreted by the pituitary, a pea-sized gland located beneath the base of the brain. These midgets, whose short stature is caused by an underactive pituitary, receive HGH extracted from cadavers' pituitaries. Each child requires the extracts from about 100 pituitaries each year, and doctors estimate another 8,000 midget children in the past decade could have been helped had there been enough HGH to go around.

Adult dwarfs have reached full maturity and therefore can't be treated.

The hormone has been synthesized and it appears likely that large-scale production of a synthetic hormone could eventually eradicate this type of dwarfism. The HGH synthesized in 1971 by University of California biochemist C. H. Li was only 10% as effective as the natural hormone. But Mr. Li, who heads the university's Hormone Research Laboratory in San Francisco, is optimistic about eventually developing a synthetic HGH able to stimulate 25% to 50% as much growth as the natural hormone.

'LPA is lightswitch stick'

Valuckas of District-11 were the LPA's Distinguished Service Award Lancaster, Pa. 1979 National Con-

s award was not for just one year of two or three. Between Frieda and re than 32 years of service to LPA.

right now are the co-chairmen for Committee. In addition to this ckas's are longtime District-11 la served as foreign correspondent from 1969-1976. She also was in and the bibliography of the LPA

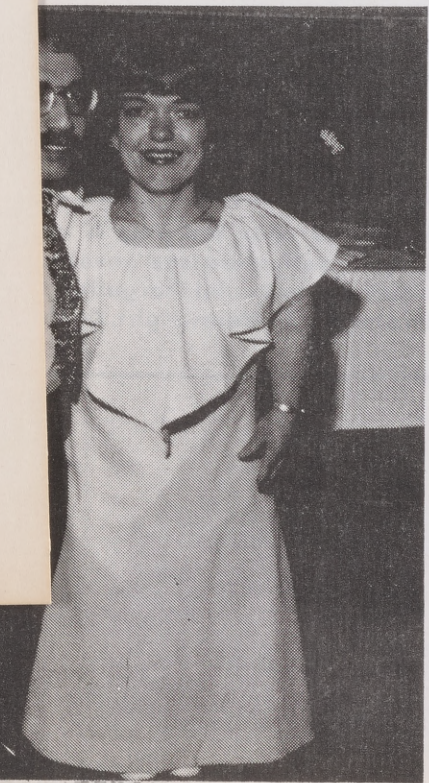
right now are the co-chairmen for Committee. In addition to this ckas's are longtime District-11 a served as foreign correspondent from 1969-1976. She also was in and the bibliography of the LPA

s that when she first joined LPA, ly different attitude towards the ther tall parent and her short rst contacted me about the club,"

the child had had some brain de me feel superior because I felt er."

ed when you encountered your People?

Portland. I had taken the train up Pacific University) and at the Achondros waiting. I could have



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was."

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q... Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q... You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q... Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q... Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA. I got a lot of support professionally, I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q... You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978. We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in January and Connie is eight.

'LPA is lightswitch stick'

By Ed Lang
LPA News Editor

Frieda and Pete Valuckas of District-11 were the first recipients of LPA's Distinguished Service Award presented at the Lancaster, Pa. 1979 National Convention.

Pete and Frieda's award was not for just one year of service or even two or three. Between Frieda and Pete, there are more than 32 years of service to LPA.

Pete and Frieda right now are the co-chairmen for the LPA Adoption Committee. In addition to this position, the Valuckas's are longtime District-11 stalwarts and Frieda served as foreign correspondent for the organization from 1969-1976. She also was in charge of research and the bibliography of the LPA Handbook.

Pete and Frieda right now are the co-chairmen for the LPA Adoption Committee. In addition to this position, the Valuckas's are longtime District-11 stalwarts and Frieda served as foreign correspondent for the organization from 1969-1976. She also was in charge of research and the bibliography of the LPA Handbook.

But Frieda recalls that when she first joined LPA, she had a completely different attitude towards the organization. "Another tall parent and her short statured daughter first contacted me about the club," Frieda said. "Well the child had had some brain damage and that made me feel superior because I felt I was better than her."

Q...What happened when you encountered your first group of Little People?

A. Well, it was in Portland. I had taken the train up from school (Seattle Pacific University) and at the station there were six Achondros waiting. I could have died.



Peter and Frieda Valuckas
...received service award

"It was a very unusual feeling looking at so many people who looked like you. I mean I said, my backside doesn't sway like that or I'm not really built like that but of course I was.

"The first hour or two was the hardest but after I went shopping with some of the members, I was surprised at the similarities we shared. I remember when the weekend was over, Wally Brooks told everyone to stand on the tables because, 'if you don't, you'll drown in Frieda's tears.' I became emotionally

Personality Profiles

unglued. I mean I shared many intimate feelings that I couldn't even share with my parents."

Q...Can you estimate how many people you've brought into LPA over your many years with the club?

A. At least 25-30 but to this day, I still feel uneasy coming up to new people. I would say that the club is a reflection of yourself. You must become friends with a person before you tell them about LPA.

We've hit a lot of people on the medical aspect. We say, 'do you feel tingling in your legs, does your back get tired? Many times they can relate to that. Then we say there's a meeting coming up and a doctor who may be able to answer your questions will be on hand.

Q...You are a school teacher and I understand a good one. How do you deal with children every day?

A. This is my 16th year of teaching. Sometimes there's a problem but it is not as difficult as it used to be. Sometimes a child will ask, 'why are you so short?' and I'll say, 'I have to be short to teach you better.'

Q...Pete is an adoption worker for Catholic Welfare Services and that definitely is an asset to LPA members knowing his experience is invaluable. But what is the usual procedure if LPs want to adopt a Little Little?

A. Interested members should contact us. We will tell you to get a case worker in your respective state to do a home study for adoption. If there is a religious preference, be sure to apply with the correct religious welfare service. The most important step is to become certified to have an adopted child.

We take the information regarding the case worker working with the particular dwarfed child and try to link them up with the proper parents.

Q...Frieda, what do you believe LPA has done for you?

A. LPA has been the stick that helps me reach the lightswitch. It has allowed me to achieve what tall people have achieved for the most part. I met my husband in LPA. I got a lot of support professionally. I've received medical help because of LPA and we have become parents because of LPA. It has helped me fulfill my life's dreams.

Q...You have two adopted children. Tell us about them?

We got Connie in 1974 from Hamberg, Germany and in the Spring of 1978, We got Mark. He was available and he needed a Catholic home and we were open. He'll be two in January and Connie is eight.

A SPECTRUM OF LOVE

---Walter Rinder

"I love you."

There is a much greater motivation than simply my spoken words. For me to love, is to commit myself, freely and without reservation. I am sincerely interested in your happiness and wellbeing. Whatever your needs are, I will try to fulfill them and will bend in my values depending on the importance of your need. If you are lonely and need me, I will be there. If in that loneliness you need to talk, I will listen. If you need to listen, I will talk. If you need the strength of human touch, I will touch you. If you need to be held, I will hold you. I will lie naked in body with you if that be your need. If you need fulfillment of the flesh, I will give you that also, but only through my love.

I will try to be constant with you so that you will understand the core of my personality and from that understanding you can gain strength and security that I am acting as me. I may falter with my moods. I may project, at times, a strangeness that is alien to you which may bewilder or frighten you. There will be times when you question my motives. But because people are never constant and are as changeable as the seasons, I will try to build up within you a faith in my fundamental attitude and show you that my inconsistency is only for the moment and not a lasting part of me. I will show you love now. Each and every day, for each day is a lifetime. Every day we live, we learn more how to love. I will not defer my love nor neglect it, for if I wait until tomorrow, tomorrow never comes. It is like a cloud in the sky, passing by. They always do, you know!

If I give you kindness and understanding, then I will receive your faith. If I give hate and dishonesty, I will receive your distrust. If I give you fear and am afraid, you will become afraid and fear me. I will give to you what I need to receive.

To what degree (amount) I give love is determined by own capability. My capability is determined by the environment of my past existence and understanding of love, truth and God. My understanding is determined by my parents, friends, places I have lived and been. All experiences that have fed into my mind from living.

I will give you as much love as I can. If you will show me how to give more, then I will give more. I can only give as much as you need to receive or allow me to give. If you receive all I can give, then my love is endless and fulfilled. If you receive a portion (part) of my love, then I will give others the balance I am capable of giving. I must give all that I have, being what I am.

Love is universal. Love is the movement of life. I have loved a boy, a girl, my parents, art, nature. All things in life I find beautiful. No human being or society has the right to condemn any kind of love I feel or my way of expressing it, if I am sincere, sincerity being the honest realization of myself and there is no hurt or pain intentionally involved in my life or any life my life touches. I want to become a truly loving spirit. Let my words, if I must speak, become a restoration of your soul. But when speech is silent, does a may project the great depth of his sensitivity? When I touch you, kiss you, or hold you, I am saying a thousand words.

Dreams of own cabinet shop

Dwarf defeats obstacles



Photo by Jim Chapman

RON HACKL, LEFT, WORKS AT ADULT SCHOOL SHOP WHERE HE IS AN INSTRUCTOR
San Lorenzo instructor Jim Frank, right, helped Hackl start his woodworking career

By RITA RESARE

SAN LORENZO — Any self-pitying type who expects sympathy because he is "too tall" or "too short" or whatever need not expect any from Ron Hackl, a witty bundle of energy who stands 4 feet 2 and weighs just under 100 pounds.

A sense of humor has served Hackl well during his 25 years. He is the third of four sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hackl of San Lorenzo and an achondroplasia dwarf.

Hackl made up his mind at a very tender age that he wanted to be a cabinet maker, and his dream is to eventually have a custom cabinet shop of his own. There were obstacles to overcome, but his determination didn't allow him to admit defeat.

He gives much of the credit for his success to date to his parents and brothers Bob, 28; Rick, 27, and Roy, 24. They refused to treat him as "different," and he was encouraged to participate in all sports and activities that his brothers enjoyed. Eventually, he attained Eagle Scout status.

Today Hackl enjoys racquet ball, golf, baseball, football and water skiing. He fits all of these activities between his full-time job at Builders Cabinets, Inc., of Oakland and his part-time job as a shop instructor for the San Lorenzo Adult School.

After completing his studies at Hesperian School, Edendale Junior High and San Lorenzo High School, Hackl took wood working classes through the adult school. His instructor — whom he credits with inspiring him — was Jim Frank, who he had first met as a high school teacher.

Frank urged Hackl to take a four-year apprenticeship at the vocational center in Hayward, where teacher Charles Smith also showed great faith in him. The job in Oakland came after he received his journeyman's certificate.

Frank added to Hackl's confidence by encouraging him to accept a teaching post with the adult school. It is Frank's philosophy that anyone — large or small — should have the opportunity to develop his skills and hold any job for which he is qualified.

Sandwiched among Hackl's other activities is participation in the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Little People of America, Inc., whose motto is "think big." An 11-year member, he attends meetings in Burlingame and Hayward and conventions in various states.

This organization raises money for the study of dwarfism, and convention speakers include doctors who specialize in the problems unique to dwarfs. There are reports on medical advancements and the successful treatment of growth problems in youngsters.

Hackl, who describes himself as "4 feet 2, with eyes of blue," will hastily add that another reason for belonging to Little People of America is to "meet chicks my own size." But he is in no hurry to marry — "I have too

Please see back of section, col. 5

Dwarf overcomes life's obstacles

Continued from Page 1

many things to do, too many places to go."

Right now he is "addicted" to racquet ball and planning to enter a tournament in Sacramento next month. He said he loves competition.

Asked where he gets his clothes, Hackl shot right back, "Out of Cracker Jacks boxes." To a peristent request to answer the question seriously, Hackl replied, "I really go to toy stores and rip the clothes off of GI Joe dolls!"

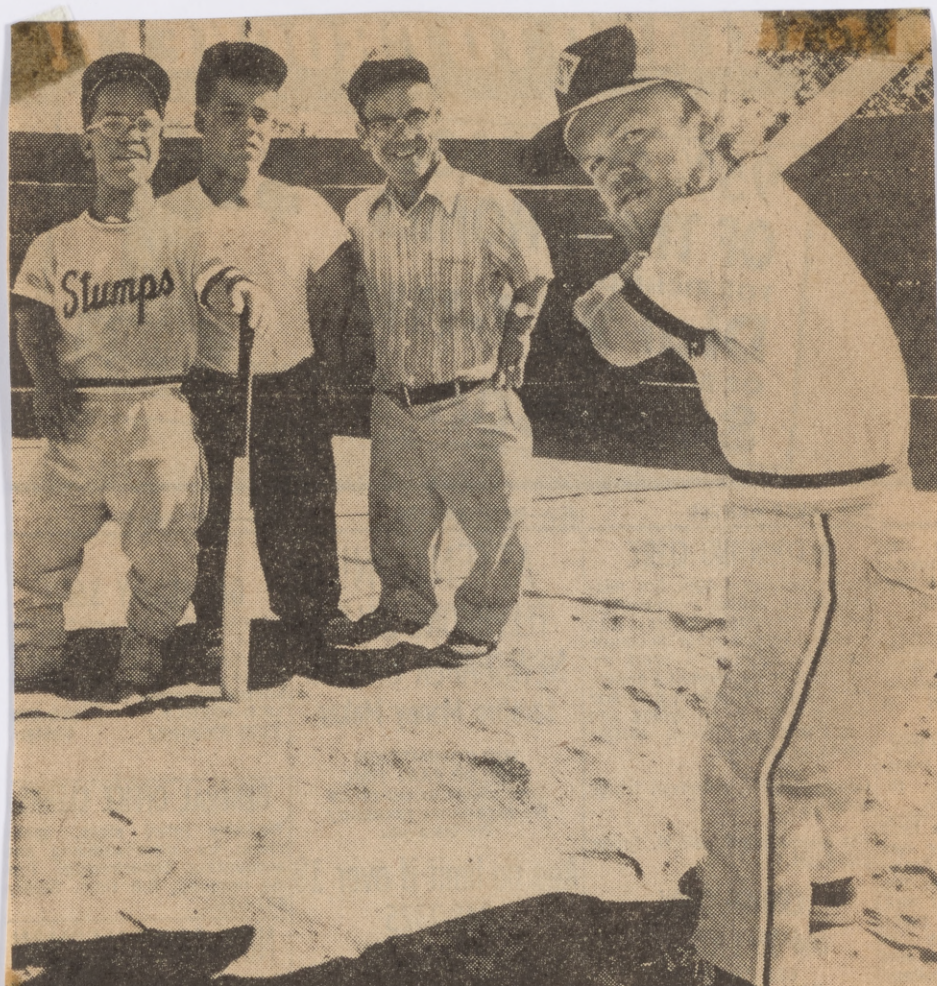
He finally revealed that an Alameda tailor makes his dress clothes. He relies on his mother to alter work and casual clothes.

Recalling the days when he and his brothers were children, Hackl said that his mother altered the trousers that his brothers discarded after wearing out the knees. And with three active brothers, Hackl never lacked pants, he laughingly recalled.

Shoes are sometimes a problem, he said, especially if he wants the latest style. But he never sacrifices fit for style, as other dwarfs are tempted to do, he said.

Standing on a box made by his brother, Hackl operates the various wood-working machines at San Lorenzo High.

He is a little man with a big smile — and ambition and a sense of humor to match.



DIAMOND DANDIES — The Stumps, representing the Little People of America, will take on the Gems and Jewels, a local women's team, in a benefit softball game Sunday at Nicholl Park. Team Captain Ron "Slugger" Hackl got in some practice swings for the upcoming game as teammates Anthony

(left) and Jack Carlino (center) watched with assistant manager Neno Carlino. Proceeds from the game will benefit both the Little People of America softball program and the local women's teams. Game time is 1 p.m. on Nicholl Park diamond No. 1.

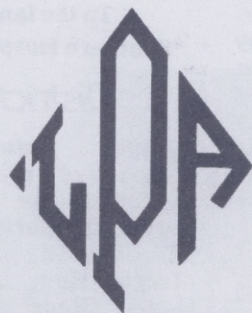
—JAMES PEASE PHOTO

VS.

FAIRFIELD EXCHANGE CLUB



SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1976 - 1:00 p.m.



NEWS

Little People of America

Vol. 15, No. 4

January-February 1977

8 Pages

In September tournament

Monzingo named top golfer

Darrel Monzingo of District Eleven won the fourth annual Little People's Invitational Golf Tournament, held at the beautiful Azusa Green Country Club in Azusa, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 25, 1976. Darrel, from Seattle, Wash., shot an amazing 76 on the 6100-yard course. Coming in second and third were Danny Blain of District Eight and Ronnie Clark of District Seven, shooting 82 and 85, respectively.

Big people, little people and celebrities from all over the country participated. LPA golfers started arriving Friday night. After the Saturday afternoon practice round, more than 100 people had cocktails and refreshments at a get-acquainted party.

LPA queen Diane Layne and last year's queen, Karen Anderson, were there. Billy Barty, LPA founder and host of the event, expressed special thanks to them for all their efforts. Karen arrived early and really plugged LPA and the tournament.

Joe Bingo, tournament chairman, remarked that this was one of the best LPA golf tournaments yet, and that it is only a matter of time before this will be one of the most popular golf tournaments in the country. He stated that people were flying in from Florida, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania just to be

with the little people.

There were a couple of firsts at the tournament. Two teenage boys, Jeff Scott, 13, from Fresno, Calif., and Mike Treylinek, 14, of Pittsburgh, Pa., battled it out and finally tied for fifth place, shooting 87s. Stephanie Holzman, the first woman to play in the tournament, shot 110. LPA founder Billy Barty said, "I have a feeling that we will be having more of the opposite sex in future tournaments."

Alan Picard of New York, playing in his first tournament, scored 86 for fourth place. It was quite a tussle as 14 players scored under 100. Considering that only 10 percent of all golfers in the United States break 100 each year, the LPA golfers can feel proud of themselves.

LPA president Gerald (See **TOURNEY**, Page 5)



LPA founder Billy Barty (left) and president Gerald Rasa (right) present the first-place golf tournament trophy to Darrel Monzingo.

Rosters to be mailed soon

LPA membership rosters will be sent to all paid members in two weeks. With the printing nearly completed, mailing envelopes and labels are rapidly being prepared.

It will be the first LPA roster since 1973 when unfortunate circumstances occurred that called for complete reorganization of the roster. With all problems solved, revised

rosters will be published every year from now on.

Rosters are published for the purposes of supplying the names and current addresses of all members and correcting other outdated information. All currently paid members who do not receive one should contact their district directors.

For reporting spelling errors, deleted names, and

incorrect addresses, contact Beth Ohrum, National Membership Secretary, 3845 Hawick Lane, Dallas, Tex. 75220. Be sure to write on a card or piece of paper the wrong information (as printed in the roster) and the correct information, indicating which is wrong. A list of corrections will probably be sent later to district directors for (See **ROSTERS**, Page 8)



At District Four's Christmas party in Atlanta were (left to right), seated on the floor: Mary Alice Johnston and Diann Lociero (from District Eight); first row: Audrey Wilkerson, Elaine Summers, Jo Guy, Joey Urban, Janice Cleary and Sherry Hamby; second row: Eddie

McIntosh, Pete Johnston, Marcla Hein, Glenn Summers, Cecil Guy, Mickey Gilmer, Nick Polsson, James Davis and David Stewart; third row: Susan Kirby, Al Chegwiddden, Betty Cowan and James Cowan.

District 4

(From Page 2)

Santa Claus looked a lot like member Bill Albaugh (just a coincidence for sure). Santa's number one elf was Patrick Mulcahy.

Jerry Santero, consumer services supervisor for Florida Power and Light Company, was guest speaker at the South Florida group's January meeting in Hialeah, Fla. He showed a movie and gave a talk on how electricity is generated from nuclear power.

Officers for a proposed North Georgia chapter known as the "North Georgia Crackers" are Mary Alice Johnston, President; Herbert Perry, Vice President; Elaine Summers, Secretary; and Billy Sutton, Treasurer. The proposed chapter's by-laws have been drafted, and final signatures are being gotten before the charter is submitted to the LPA National Executive Committee and Board of

Directors for approval. Billy Sutton won a year's paid membership in the group for deriving the name "North Georgia Crackers."

The North Georgians met Nov. 20 for their Thanksgiving meeting, which was hosted by Billy and Sylvia Sutton in Jackson, Ga. Prospective member Sheri Hamby and new member Judy Tucker were there. Glenn and Elaine Summers of Hapeville, Ga., had the group in their home for the January meeting.

District Four's next meeting will be in Monroeville, Ala., hosted by David Stewart and parents Feb. 26-27. Meeting plans are in the recent district newsletter.

In the Land of Lincoln...

District 6

A final count of those attending the District Six spring regional in Elgin, Ill., Nov. 19-21 totaled over 100 persons, including auxiliary members and

guests. Mrs. Kay Smith and Dr. Arthur Siebens, both of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, spoke about the development of the brace and exercise table, research tools designed to ease or even alleviate common back problems among achondroplastic dwarfs. Dr. Siebens also examined people, collecting measurement data for increasing knowledge of little people's problems and overall general health.

Other activities included reading in the Ramada Inn's library, viewing of the LPA documentary film, bowling and shopping. The whole affair was topped off with a surprise birthday cake for district director Eddie Darmstadt, who became 72-years-old Nov. 18.

Neighboring districts Five, Seven and Nine were represented by persons from Indiana, Minnesota and Missouri. Special guests included Dr. Siebens' brother and other family members.

Santa Claus visited the Christmas party in Chicago Heights, Ill., Dec. 12. Adults brought gifts to exchange among themselves, as well as gifts for the children. The party, hosted by Eric Gordon and family, was especially merry for little John Cooper and Matthew Edelman, for this was their first LPA Christmas party.

Mrs. Kay Smith recently forwarded to the district the name of a neurologist, Dr. Raymond Roos, who has worked at the Moore Clinic in Johns Hopkins Hospital with Dr. Victor McKusick and Dr. Arthur Siebens, and is now at the University of Chicago. Dr. Roos is especially interested in the study of Achondroplasia. His address is in care of the University of Chicago, Division of Biological Sciences and Pritzker School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, 950 East 59th Street, Chicago, Ill. 60637, phone 312-947-6093.

An upcoming meeting for the district will be in Lillian Jessie's home in Chicago. The date is not available for this issue.

Through the crossroads
of the nation...

District 7

Donna Sturm will host the 1950's party in Stillwater, Okla., Feb. 19, as hair and clothes will bring back memories of when dancing to rock and roll was young. Bring your favorite old hit records.

Prior to that, however, there will be an afternoon of socializing and maybe bowling or skating. The evening meal will be informal, with pizza and burgers from a local take-out place.

Room rates at the local Holiday Inn are \$15 for single, \$21 for double, \$24 for three, and \$27 for four. Reservations should be made by writing or calling the Holiday Inn. Be sure to specify that you are with LPA.

People who made scene



LPA queen Diane Layne poses with Azusa Greens host Johnny Johnson.



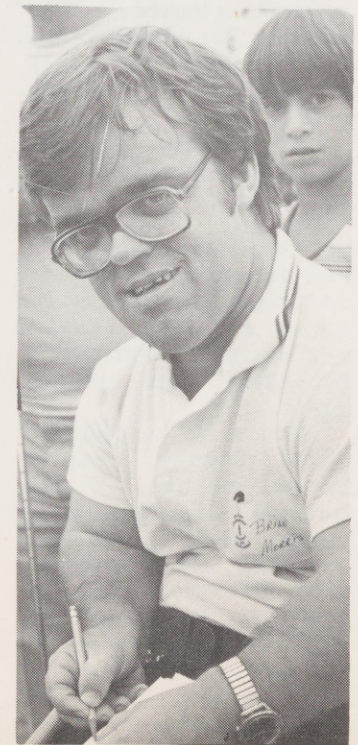
In the background, Bill Chapman (standing), Fred Warren and an unidentified scorekeeper look on as Johnny and Billy prepare to tee off.



Ed Darmstadt, District Six director, tees off.



Billy Barty (left) and Joe Bingo accept a check for \$2,000 from Arlyne Rudolph.



LPA treasurer Brian Morris checks scoreboard.

... at Azusa Green



Three-year-old Monique Hamilton meets tournament chairman Joe Bingo.



Danny Blain exhibits the skill that won him second place.

Tourney

(From Page 1)

Rasa shot 133, which is good for just having started the game. Billy expressed thanks to Gerald for the kind letter he sent the tournament committee.

"Joe and I sincerely hope that we have created an atmosphere of better understanding with the bigger person, which, as Dr. David Ramoin points out, can be better than the money raised," Billy said. He suggests that if one really wants to know what the tournament is all about, he should ask someone who was there, and consequently, he might decide to join the tournament in the future.

The 1977 LPA Invitational Golf Tournament will be held in September at Azusa Greens.

A total of \$19,388.53 was raised. Close to \$3,000 was donated to the Harbor General Hospital Short Stature Clinic in Los Angeles. A tournament financial report was sent to LPA treasurer Brian Morris.

Other players and their scores were: David Becker, 88; Ed O'Brian, 89; Nels Nelson, 89; Mel Rossi, 90; Bob Hubof, 91; Gary Friedkin, 92; Jim Undi, 93; Frank Law, 94; Ed Buscemi, 94; Jerry Maren, 94; Keith McCall, 96; Larry Green, 99; Andre Boursse, 100; Ronnie Hackl, 100; Charles Secor, 101; Joe Alexander, 101; Billy Barty, 102; George Rossitto, 103; Brian Morris, 104; Len Garman, 109; Mickey Rosenberg, 110; Walter Menning, 112; Gary Smith, 114; Davey Lamb, 115; Jack Spracker, 118; Pat Bilon, 125; Jim Hagen, 125; Ed Darmstadt, 146.



Billy welcomes (clockwise) Walter Menning, Alan Picard, Gary Friedkin, 1975-76 queen Karen Anderson, president Gerald Rasa, present queen Diane Layne and last year's king Pat Bilon.



Billy Barty presents the third-place trophy to Ronnie Clark.

District reports

(From Page 3)

Down where the Mississippi flows and Longhorns run wild. . .

District 8

Plans for District Eight in 1977 include working to bring the 1978 national convention to the district, a project headed by director Ron Rockwood and Lee Kitchens. With this project in mind, big district meetings will be necessary in order that everyone may do his or her part. Dates and places for these spring and fall meetings have not yet been determined. The chapters in the district plan to take large groups to the meetings, as well as to the 1977 national convention Aug. 1-5 in Portland, Ore.

Ricardo Gil reports that the Dixie Lil Highs had about 25 members and auxiliary members at their Christmas party Dec. 12. Everyone brought a dish for the meal and gifts to exchange.

A combination Christmas and surprise birthday party brought members of the Houston-Gulf Coast Chapter together recently. The honoree was G. C. Simmans, the chapter's oldest member, who had just



Pictured left to right at District Eight's October meeting in San Antonio are (front row) Karie Rockwood, Jill Berry, Julie Berry, Dawn Hull and Suzanne Howe; (second row) Lee Kitchens, Nancy Rockwood, Mary Kitchens, Marilyn Roberts, Mary Beth Eley, Gail Hull, Mary Ann Mackey, Jana Towsand and Ronald Rockwood; (third row) Lee Wright, Anne Wright, Louise Rodgers, "Miss Mini 1976-

77" Susan Brooks, Colleen Dalley, Roberts Berry, Diann Locicero and Kenny Rodgers; (fourth row) Sandra Kitchens, Selma Burman, Tom Berry, Betty Howe, Jack McKenzie and Ann Di Cella; (fifth row) Domenique Di Cella, Bill Howe, George Cromwell, Ann Cromwell, Allen Pederson, Beth ohrum, Susan Barnes, Mary Ellen McSpedden, Sammie Green and George Ann Turner.

turned 79. The group ate a three-tier cake decorated in red and green with a rocking chair on top, and presented Mr. Simmans with a \$250 check from the chapter for a new suit. The Harville family, Barbara, David, Alida and Annette, newcomers to LPA, got in on the fun.

The chapter's January meeting was at a Pizza Hut in Houston.

To the nation's breadbasket. . .

District 9

The Twin Cities Chapter's Christmas party was at little little David Olson's and parents' home in Burnsville, Minn. The children exchanged gifts, and Santa's helper, David D'Avia, gave gifts to all the kids. Some young people

rode snow mobiles.

New chapter officers named at the meeting are Kathy D'Avia, president; Marilyn Zellman, vice president; Sharon Ostendorf, secretary; and Natalie Casey, treasurer.

In January about 25 chapter members went skating in Bloomington, Minn., and later met at Sharon Ostendorf's apartment.

Through Nature's art gallery. . .

District 10

The Phoenix Chapter's November meeting was at Danny and Donna Taylor's new home.

A group of 24 enjoyed the prize-winning dancing of Gary Hicks' and Anita Clapp's at the Christmas party. Luverne and Helen Hicks hosted a children's holiday celebration, complete with pinata, gifts and refreshments.

Marcella Brower succeeds Anita Clapp as president of the chapter. (See DISTRICT 10, Page 7)



Pictured left to right at the Phoenix Chapter's December meeting are (front row), Della Johnson, Judy Frantz, Jonathan Osborne, Anita Clapp, Katie Jorgenson, and Elizabeth Jorgenson; (second row) Gary Hicks, Luverne Hicks,

Judy Henson, Marsha Kirkman, Lynn Trombino, Mark Trombino, Jill Trombino and Manuel Delci. At right, Gary Hicks and Anita Clapp perform their prize-winning dancing for the people at the chapter's Christmas party.



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, INC.

SAN JOAQUIN

OCTOBER

77

SEPTEMBER

"LITTLE BIT'S"

Fresno Youth's Trophy Another Example Of Determination, Pluck

Billy Barty, one of the most famous of the world's little people and an avid golfer, can't hit a golf ball very far, or very straight.

Sixteen-year-old Jeff Scott of Fresno can do both and has a hand-

some 37-inch trophy to prove that he won the fifth annual Billy Barty-sponsored Little Peoples Invitational World Championship in Azusa, Calif., last weekend.

"It was the best score (one-over-par 71 at the Azusa Country Club) that I have ever shot," said the 4-foot, 3-inch, 80-pound Scott, who is a sophomore at Hoover High School. "I can hit the ball about 200 yards off the tee. If my arms were a little longer, I am sure I could hit it farther."

Scott had been playing once or twice a week, plus some practice, in getting ready for the tournament in which he placed third last year, but actually golf is only a hobby for him.

"I won't have too much time for golf now that school has started," said Jeff, whose parents learned when he was 8 months old that he would not be as big as most people. "For one thing, I am going to try out for the Hoover wrestling team."

Scott was on the wrestling and soccer teams at Awahnee Junior High, and has played eight seasons in the Fresno Junior Soccer League.

He also has played PeeWee League baseball, lifts weights, swims, bowls, plays tennis and has participated in motocross competi-

tion. He played baseball in junior high until it was concluded it was too difficult to pitch to him.

"Dale Battistoni (a teacher at Awahnee) suggested I take up golf and so he taught me to play three years ago," he said. "I got a regular set and had it cut down to my specifications."

Battistoni also was his wrestling coach and has been an important factor in his sports career.

"Jeff couldn't have been more than 45 or 50 pounds when he started soccer," said his mother Gerri Scott. "Jeff is very resourceful. He can't fully extend his arms so he had trouble with swimming, but about four years ago he taught himself to swim underwater and this past year he taught himself to swim on top. He also entered a diving class in 1976 and does quite well."

He has been a member of the Little Peoples Organization (District 12) since he was five years old.

"This is a great organization and we have had a chapter here for about seven years, but it just has not grown, largely because many people do not know about it," said Mrs. Scott. "It is a very active group and they have state and national conven-

tions where they are introduced to all kinds of gadgets to help little people."

Jeff built his own extensions and with them he can drive almost any car.

Four years ago he wanted a 10-speed bike. Only one shop was willing to tackle the job and he has been riding ever since.

"When he was playing soccer you would hear bigger boys talking about not hitting him hard because they didn't want to hurt him," she continued. "However, they soon found out it was themselves that needed to worry because he was absolutely fearless and he never suffered a soccer injury."

With the proceeds from the Azusa tournament, which attracted such celebrities as Donald O'Connor, Dennis James, Morey Amsterdam and Maury Wills, Barty hopes to build a retirement home and medical center for Little People somewhere in the Azusa area.

Jeff is hopeful other Little People in Fresno will come out of their shells and realize they can live a normal life.

They have a fine example to follow.

Run-Run softball set for July 10

HAYWARD — A lineup of four all-star games will feature the 4th annual Run-Run Jones Celebrity Softball day at Cal State Hayward on Saturday, July 10.

Joining the usual contingent from the Oakland Raiders in the featured game will be two teams of former Roller Derby stars coached by Charlie O'Connell and Wild Bill Reynolds.

The Raiders will play one Derby all-star aggregation at 2:15 p.m. and the Bay Bombers, led by O'Connell, will play in a 4 p.m. game against a group of softball all-stars.

In other games, a team of dwarfs "The Little People", take on the South County Girls All Stars at 12:30 and preceding that game at 11 a.m., two teams of Teamsters will vie.

Among the Raiders expected to be present at the game are George Buehler, Cliff Branch, Skip Thomas, Clarence Davis, Mike Siani, Dave Dalby, John Vella, Dan Medlin, Art Thoms, Tony Cline, Ted Hendricks and Marv Hubbard.

Admission to the entire event is \$1 in advance and \$2 donation at the gate. Advance tickets may be purchased at BASS outlets and at Denevi Camera.

Another feature of the day will be a special punting exhibition by Raider Ray Guy, who led the NFL in punting last year.



High Jinks On Diamond

The long and short of it is that the Tip Toppers, a group of tall people, and the Little People of America decided to have it out and have fun on the softball diamond Sunday at Kennedy Park in Hayward. Tall first-baseman Lynn Chatterton (above) holds Emmanuel Worthington at the bag close by his unidentified coach, while Tall person Anthony Carlino (right) kiddingly takes advantage of Oliver Gruter.



Tribune photos by KENNETH GREEN



THEY MAY BE TINY, but they carry big sticks. The team, known as the Stumps, is part of the Little People of the Bay Area organization. This group will match up Sunday in Concord with Gold Mine, a local softball team, in an exhibition game that will benefit local charities. The game will be played at 1 p.m. Spectators purchasing a ticket will receive a

special value, \$1 off on any Straw Hat pizza. Pictured above, front row from left, are Kenny Silliams, Bruce Johnson, Bob Burlan and David Norris. Back row, from left, are Ron Hackl, Pate Luce, Bob East, Peter Norman, Jack Carlino, Neno Carlino and Anthony Carlino.

Little People In Benefit Ball Game

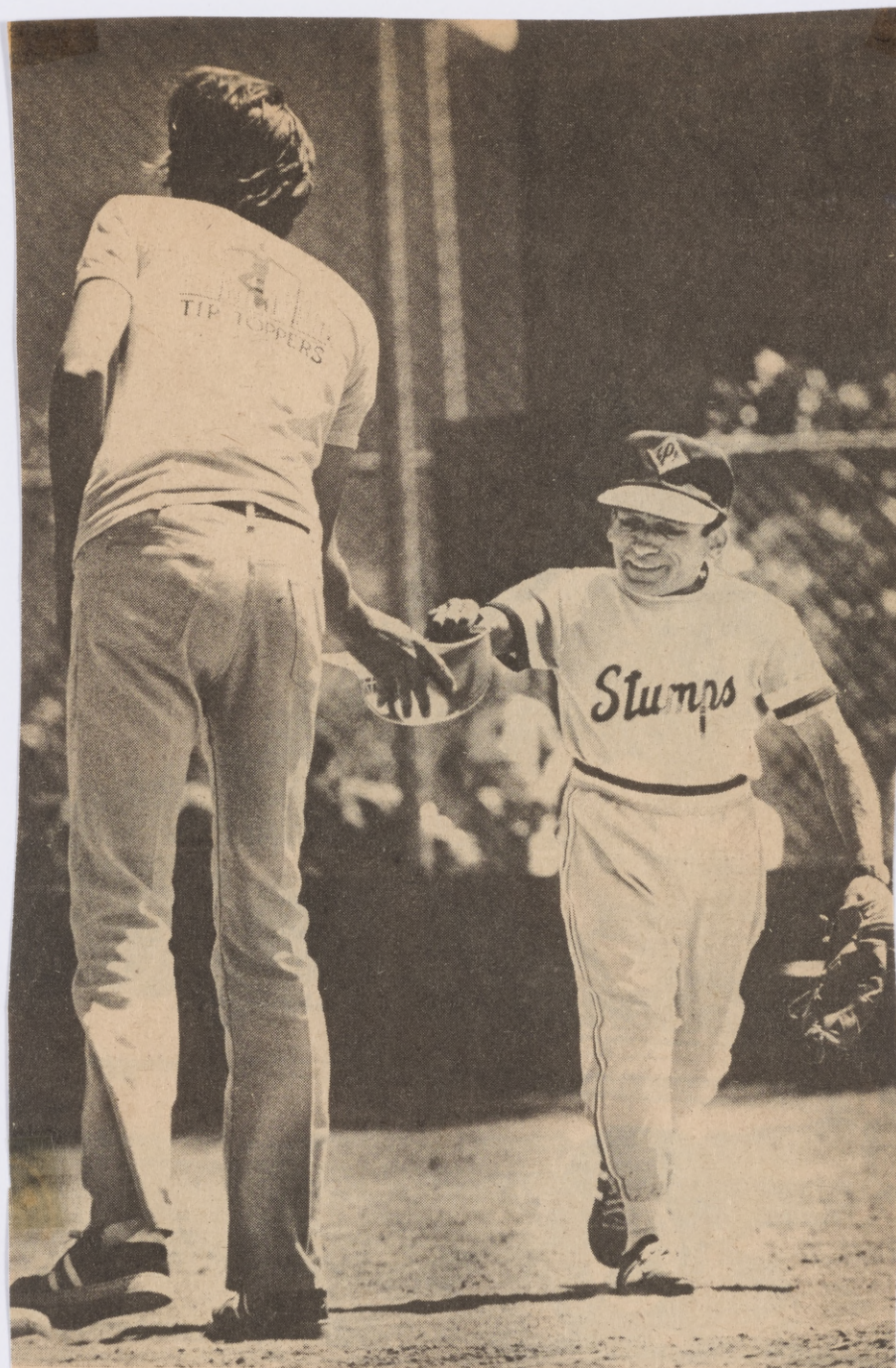
Little People of the Bay Area, who play softball for fun and their favorite charity, will take on the Walnut Creek Gold Mine in a regulation game at 1 p.m. Sunday at Willow Pass Park in Concord.

The "Stumps," as they are known, are managed by Bob East and make a number of appearances in the Bay Area and Northern California each season.

There will be no admission charge, but spectators are urged to donate \$1 which is turned over to the team's charity fund.

Straw Hat Pizza of Concord is sponsoring the benefit game.

Gold Mine is a member of the B Softball League playing out of Concord under manager Gary Gabel, who arranged the contest.



June 13, 1976

Photo by Len Cook

How's the air up there?

Pat Luce of the Little People of America retrieves a batting helmet for Wayne Angeloty of the Golden Gate Tip Toppers during yesterday's

benefit game at Kennedy Park between the big guys and the little guys. No final score was reported.

LITTLE PEOPLE OF THE BAY AREA SOFT BALL GAME



STUMPS VS. CONCORD TIRE & BRAKE

JULY 16, 1978 - 1:00 P.M.

PLEASANT HILL PARK, FIELD NO. 2
GREGORY LANE, P.H.

They're Short In Tall World

BALTIMORE (AP)—It was called a "short-statured symposium," and 200 dwarfs from across the country showed up to discuss the problems in the daily lives of shorter people.

"For the child, the real problems begin when he starts preschool," said Joan O. Weiss, a social worker and cochairman of Johns Hopkins University's sixth annual symposium which was held during the weekend.

"His classmates will tend to baby him or try to pick him up and carry him around. Teachers very often are overprotective.

"For parents, the problems begin when other children in the neighborhood begin to tease their short-statured child. Most parents initially go through what we call a 'grief syndrome' when they discover the perfect baby they expected did not come."

There are an estimated 100,000 dwarfs in the United States. The condition occurs in one out of every 20,000 births and is usually linked to hereditary, dietary, infectious and hormonal causes.

Three-foot-seven Ernest K. Ott, 21, of Silver Spring, Md., recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in economics and begins working on a masters degree in business at Duke University this fall.

"I'm not bitter because I happen to be unusually short," said Ott, who says adjusting to a normal-sized world includes finding clothes and shoes that fit and getting on buses.

"I have to literally jump off the ground to reach the first step," he said.



Little Darling Dagmar took this opponent for a spin and eventually pinned her. She looks at wrestling as "a helluva challenge." And she's usually up to it.

Little Darling Dagmar

By Betty Cuniberti

When the elevator button is out of reach, when access to the public telephone requires a step ladder — any time the world looks down on Little Darling Dagmar — the three-foot five-inch wrestler looks right back up and spits Chivas Regal in its eye.

Life as a wrestler is not easy, let alone life as a woman dwarf, but Dagmar can handle any role.

"I'm gutsy," she said over a glass of her favorite Scotch. "I go after difficult things. Why did I go into wrestling? I thought it would be a helluva challenge."

Dagmar attacks her life with such fervor that her more average-sized tag team partner, Vicki Williams, occasionally has problems keeping up. Williams herself is not short-suited on guts (she chucked a stable career as a physical education teacher to be a suitcase-carrying participant) she is often overwhelmed by Dagmar's everyday encounters.

"I've seen grown people stare at her and walk right into a telephone pole," said Williams. "Just the other day a driver was looking at her and he turned left—right into another car."

"She doesn't even realize it. I can't believe how many people have no couth. It offends me more than it does her."

Dagmar chuckled at her traveling companion, much the way she always has at those who don't understand. She was born



Photos by Stephanie Maze

No frills, no fancy dressing rooms for Dagmar, or any wrestler. Whatever glamour there is has to be found in the ring.

Katherine Carlton 32 years ago near Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a dysfunction in her pituitary gland. Her torso grew to normal size while her arms and legs lagged behind.

She comes from a family that included two sisters and a brother. "And I was just as mean

as they were," Dagmar recalled proudly.

She credits her parents with the wisdom to raise her as a normal child.

"I think I had it easy," she said. "Some parents don't accept it. Mine did. To me, just being little is no problem. I just fit

myself right in."

Despite her size, Dagmar developed an affection for sports and "tried to compete" in softball and basketball. Even today, she says she plays a fair game of tennis. "I'm a great ball chaser," she brags.

See Page 51, Col. 3

Little, Darling and Gutsy

From Page 49

Her life changed one night in high school when she attended a wrestling match.

"I saw the little people wrestling, and I said, 'This is it,'" Dagmar remembered. "Something I can compete in. People of my own stature."

After she graduated from high school she did not consider college. "I knew what I wanted to do," she said. She went off to a wrestling training school in New York for a year's stay.

"I wanted to be good," said Dagmar. "It took me almost two years to establish myself. I knew I had to keep fighting. I couldn't give up — no way. I would have been lost as a person."

She doesn't miss a college degree.

"I've educated myself," said Dagmar, "by traveling. You can read books 24 hours a day and not learn nothing."

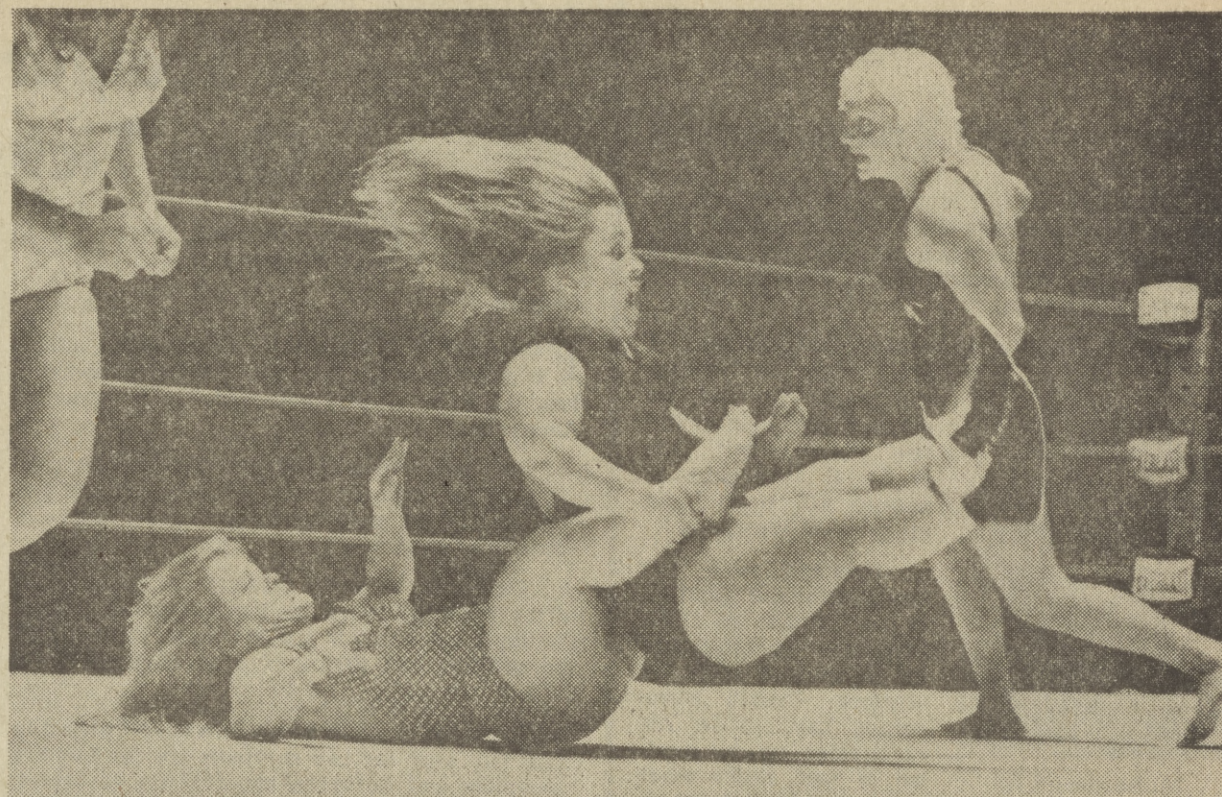
If ever there was a school of hard knocks, the wrestling circuit is it. On their recent sprint through San Francisco, Dagmar and Williams were midway through a tour that would schedule them for 14 straight nights of wrestling in stopoffs such as Yuba City, Santa Rosa, Fresno, Sacramento, Napa and San Jose.

The wrestlers dress in public restrooms, locker rooms, or, at the Cow Palace, a dingy room furnished with two cots. Before the match, their blood pressure was checked and they were asked to present their wrestling licenses to an official who didn't know their names.

Wrestling is more show than competition and the women, less popular than the men with this unsophisticated crowd, are presented like beauty queens. A publicity photo of Dagmar depicts her laying in a seductive pose on a couch. A mole is painted on her cheek, she wears a bathing suit, high heels, a mink stole and diamond earrings. Dagmar says she does not find such presentation exploitive.

"Those are publicity pictures," she said. "It doesn't hit them what I really look like until they see me."

Once in the ring, the show continues. Dagmar delights the crowd by running under the re-



Photos by Stephanie Maze



In the ring, with her opponent in a scissors lock, and out of the ring, staggered by another opponent, Dagmar takes as much as she dishes out. "But you," she tells an interviewer, "I could beat the daylight out of."

would like a family. But there are still some professional matters Dagmar wants to take care of.

There has never been a championship for midgets, but a tournament is in the planning.

"I know I'm one of the best. But to be recognized as one of the best is one of my life's goals," she said. "I'll put off having a family until that tournament."

Until then she'll remain on the wrestling road, with stopovers at home in North Carolina. She and her husband have an entire kitchen built to small scale. Their car has special extensions on the gas and brake pedals, but they feel their life is close to normal.

"Yeah," Dagmar complains, "I get speeding tickets, just like everyone else."

ferree's legs and biting Williams' tall, Hawaiian opponent in the back of the thigh. The midget wrestlers can be viewed as a sideshow to a sideshow, but Dagmar's athletic ability, almost hidden by buffoonery, still is apparent.

She is quick, precise and powerful.

"I could beat the living daylight out of you," she points out to

her interviewer. "But I couldn't beat Vicki."

Dagmar is not bothered by the fans who come to see a freak show. "They go home with a helluva surprise," she said.

Dagmar is unsure how long she will remain in the ring. She has been married for two years to a midget commercial artist and they



Members of District Eleven held their fall regional at the Thunderbird Lodge in Pullman, Wash., Oct. 21-23,

1977. Hosts were Laneva, Ed and Doyle Harris.



Dwarfs, midgets in a giant world

How the little people cope

By Charles Richards
The Associated Press

DALLAS — When sheep buyer Clay Kitchens and his wife took their 16-month-old son to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic in 1932, they expected doctors to repair the boy's cleft palate. They were not expecting a new diagnosis: young Lee was a dwarf.

"Take him home and treat him like you would any other child," doctors advised the Fort Worth couple.

"That's the best advice you could give anybody, for anybody who is handicapped," Kitchens, now 50, said. "Don't assume he can't do something until he's tried it several times."

Kitchens, engineering manager for Texas Instruments' home computer division at Lubbock, is 4-foot-1. He climbed into a chair in a motel room to talk about how he and other little people have learned to cope in a world built for bigger people.

Kitchens served as president of Little People of America from 1964 to 1968. His wife, Mary, who is 3-foot-11, was LPA treasurer from 1970 to 1974. But there was no Little People of America when he was a child, Kitchens said.

"My mother said she would have given her right arm to have had something like that when I was growing up, to help her," he said.

4½ feet is tops

The world of little people is made up of dwarfs, who have normal chests and trunks but short legs and feet, and midgets, who are small, but physically well-proportioned.

"The medical profession says any person under 5 feet is technically a dwarf, but most little people will top out at 4½ feet," Kitchens said. "We've got some that are quite a bit smaller than that. There are some who are only about 33 inches tall, and the smallest, I believe, is 29 inches."

Most little people are sensitive about the terms used to describe them.

"There are certain terms that blacks don't want to be called. And you don't refer to people with hearing impairments any more as deaf and dumb," Kitchens said. "So . . . little people. That's just what we are."

Clothing's a problem

Kitchens said his biggest problem is buying clothing — his chest is as big as an average man's but his arms and legs are short. "I have my own tailor," he said. "I see him once a year, and he's developed enough business that now he comes to all our (LPA) conventions."

Kitchens also cited "artificial barriers" that still exist in American society, such as school regulations requiring all children to attain certain standards of sports prowess.

"There are some states, Louisiana for example, that have height requirements for teachers," he added, noting that Louisiana has lost many teachers of short stature to Texas, which has no such rule.

Some little people furnish their homes with children's furniture, but that's impractical for big guests.



The Associated Press

Lee Kitchens, 4-foot-1

As for annoying remarks or slights, Kitchens said: "I don't get upset when somebody does something stupid or does it because of a lack of awareness. It's an opportunity to educate that person . . . and sometimes you make a good friend that way."

He and his wife met on a blind date while he was an electrical engineering student at Southern Methodist University and she an art student at Texas Woman's University. Last summer they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Many little people marry, and have children.

"Whether their children will also be little depends," Kitchens said. "Some are short by heredity and some are not. The first time it happens, it's genetic, and it can be hereditary after that. The chances can be anywhere from nil to 100 percent that they'll be little."

Little people sometimes adopt small children who are diagnosed as dwarfs or midgets. Kitchens and his wife did this.



AP Laserphoto

Francoise Fave-Faubert at the wheel of her Renault

Small Car Home For Small Artist

MIAMI (AP) — For most of the past two years, Francoise Fave-Faubert has lived in her car.

It has a tiny kitchen, bed, shelves and compartments covered with a paisley drop-cloth.

It's a small car — a Renault — but Francoise Fave-Faubert is a small woman, just four feet tall.

"My car is my little house, during two years. I have been in Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy," says the 37-year-old French artist.

She says she took to the

road after she was turned down as an instructor at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

"I have several diplomas, but I was not accepted because I was 'handicapped,'" she says. "But I am not handicapped. Only short."

Her mission is to "prove for all handicapped people that it is possible to do something."

So she travels the world, drawing portraits which she sells to pay her expenses.

When she returns to France, she plans to write a book about her journey and use the proceeds to help build a home for the handicapped.

'Little People' Think Big

"When You're Not the Biggest, You'd Better Be the Best," — and "Think Big," are two mottos that were flying around the Michael Ponza Ranch when the Bay Area Chapter of Little People of America met there.

The Ponzas' son, Geno, is a member of the organization.

More than 50 members and guests attended from various parts of California and in addition to recreation for all ages, there was a meeting for parents of short-statured children.

Among the speakers was Dr. Antonio Todorov of University of California Medical School at Davis who is conducting studies on the various concerns of short-statured people.

Mrs. Alfred Stickney of San Bruno, district parent chairwoman, presided. Teenagers met with Tammie DeTro of San Leandro, district teenage chairwoman.

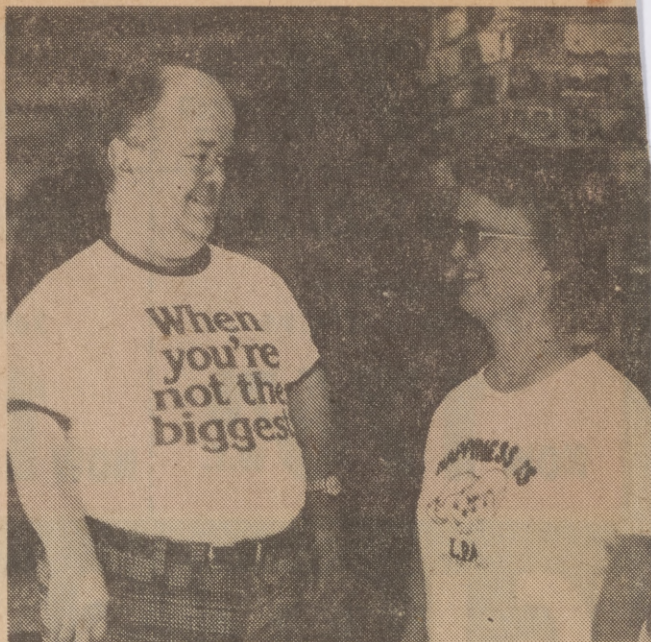
The Little People of America, area chapter, was organized in 1962 with 19 charter members. Today there are more than 200 members, 80 of whom are short-statured. The national organization has more than 2500 members.

Pat Luce is chapter president. The group has a baseball team, and bowling, miniature golf and other sports are enjoyed by groups of members.

Discussions and seminars are conducted on employment, clothing problems and other concerns of the short-statured person. Some members are in wheelchairs or use crutches. There are more than 60 types of short-statured persons (dwarfism.)

Informal get-togethers are conducted for families, every two months. Interested persons may contact Pat Luce at 1896 Boca Raton Drive, Hayward, 94545, or Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney, P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, 94066.

The nationwide organization



Tee shirts proclaim the philosophies of two little people, Mr. and Mrs. Al Stickney of Little People of America, organization for the short-statured.

10—Santa Cruz Sentinel Friday, July 2, 1976

began in 1957 when Billy Barty, TV and movie personality, organized a group of little people in Reno. Today the group produces a national newsletter and has established a foundation for gathering and disbursing funds

in the following areas: vocational training; assisting agencies in adoption of little "littles," and the medical and scientific research in causes and possible treatment of dwarfism.

Manette Anderson, 88, passed away on October 19 in Millbrae, California. She and her late husband, Albert, who passed away in 1967 were both charter members of LPA nationally as well as the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. They were married in 1941. Manette was a native of Minnesota.

10-21-80
SBI Times

Deaths

MARY M. ANDERSON

Mary Mannette Anderson, 88, of San Bruno, died Sunday in Millbrae.

She was a native of Wisconsin, had resided in this area for many years and was a charter member of Little People of America.

Survivors include a sister, Etta Fredell of Seattle, Wash.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the San Bruno Funeral Home in San Bruno, with private entombment at Sunset Mausoleum in Berkeley.

Handicapped may be facing troubled times

The past five years have seen many advances for the disabled, but things may take a turn for the worse for California's handicapped in the next few years.

That is the view of Jessica Weld, coordinator of the University of California at Berkeley personnel department's affirmative action program.

Weld will be part of a panel of Bay Area handicapped persons participating in a celebration of the 36th birthday of the United Nations and the International Year of the Disabled this weekend. Weld is a dwarf — or "little person," as she prefers to be called.

Recent legislation barring discrimination in employment has enabled more and more disabled persons to land jobs in the mainstream workplace in the past five years, said Weld.

As a result, a kind of reverse "Catch 22" has been in effect, she said.

When persons with visible disabilities go to work in an office or factory, their non-disabled fellow employees "go to lunch with them. They have professional discussions with them. They don't think of them as Jane, the disabled person. They think of them as Jane, Jane."

Ramps and other devices that provide access to public buildings have had a similar effect.

"Your image of a disabled person changes when you see him moving independently instead of being schlepped upstairs and downstairs" by an attendant, said Weld. The more such access the disabled have to mainstream life, the more the



Tribune photo by Kenneth Green

Jessica Weld

attitudinal barriers diminish.

But there may be new obstacles ahead for the handicapped.

As the job market shrivels — especially in the area of public service where so many of the disabled are now employed — the last people

See DISABLED, page E-5

LPA founder blazes trail

By Ed Lang
LPA Editor

This is a first in a series of articles on Little People who are the cornerstone of LPA. Our first article is on the Founder of Little People of America, Billy Barty. Our articles will be in easy to read Question (Q)-Answer (A) format. Over the next several issues we'll spotlight such members as Lee Kitchens, Charles Bedow, Harriet Stickney, Launa Turner, Bill Albaugh, Eddie Darmstadt and Walter Menning to name just a few.

Q. Billy, how did you get started in motion pictures?

A. "My dad was carrying me in his arms down the street when I was three-years-old and they were shooting a picture at the Samtuel Goldwyn Studios. My dad put me down and told me to do a headspin. When the director saw it, he wanted me to do it for the movie and that's how I got my start."

Q. What was the name of that first movie and how many motion pictures have you been in.

A. "That first movie was a two-reeler called, 'Wedded Blisters.' In all, I have performed in 140 motion pictures. All my roles were feature roles but the best is yet to come."

Q. Every actor feels that he has done one or two great pictures. What are your favorites?

A. "My two favorite movies were the 'Day of the Locusts,' and 'W.C. Fields and Me.' Both movies gave me a different part, a serious type of role."

Q. Besides movies, you also have a long, illustrious career in television. Would you tell us about that?

A. "I've been in television since 1948. First I was doing a local TV show in 1948, and then I went Network when I first went back to New York to work. My first show was a children's show. The first big show for me was the 'James Melton Show.' I stayed with him a year and a half. I've also done the 'Fred Waring Show', the 'Steve Allen Show,' the 'Ken Murray Show,' the 'Red Buttons Show', the 'Red Foxx Show', the 'Peter Gunn' series and the 'Billy Barty Big Show.'"

"I've also done several Sid and Marty Kroft shows playing the parts of Dr. Shrinker and Sigmund the Sea Monster."

Q. Do you feel you're typecast, that you only get comical roles?

A. "The only way I'm typecast is that I'm a Little Person. Actually, I think I've had some very good roles. I've played all types of characters, serious and



Billy Barty (r) played the man who helped W.C. Fields (played by Red Steiger) start his career. Billy has appeared in countless motion pictures and TV shows and of course is the Founder of Little People of America (LPA). His career and his role in LPA are shining beacons for Little People everywhere.

funny."

Q. I've heard a lot of favorable things from your last role in "Love Boat" with Patty Maloney. What were your thoughts about that show and are you in anything else in the near future?

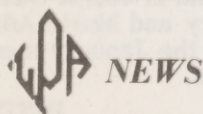
A. "I found that the cast was very uptight about 'Love Boat.' They called us in a meeting and asked if there was anything they should know or should do. Patty and I told them to just treat us like anybody else."

"I am going to appear in 'Fantasy Island' with Red Buttons. Red and I try to take over the island from Herve Villechaize and Ricardo Montalban. Call it 'Fantasy Island Junior' if you will."

Q. What do you think of Herve's success and his ability to crack such shows as Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin and the Hollywood Squares?

A. "His success is great. Look, he's 36-years-old, he has paid his dues. We had a great time working together. We became best of friends and are talking

Continued on Page 7



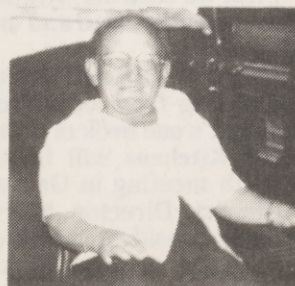
EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR - ED LANG

PRESIDENT - GERALD RASA

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT - JOEL EHRENBURG

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS - SO. FLA. MINI-GATORS



Billy Barty
...LPA founder

Barty: A pioneer in many respects

Continued from Page 6

about doing a movie altogether in the future.

"I've been on Mike Douglas and Merv Griffin but his appearance on Hollywood Squares is the first for a Little Person. I've been trying for years to get on a quiz show but hey, look, Herve is a big star in a hit TV series. He deserves everything. Actually, Herve is now where I've been in most cases.

Q. What other projects are you working on?

A. "I'm about to release a new album called, 'The Little Mouse that Roared.' It's a new family musical album and is really a lot of fun. I am also looking over a TV script for a show which would feature me as an attorney. Now that would be a novel idea and would show that Little People can and do hold down very responsible jobs. I'm very excited about the prospect of doing that show."

Q. Billy, tell us about your early life. Where are you from, how did you get to Los Angeles and how old were you when you first saw another Little Person?

A. "I was born in Millsboro, Penn., just outside of Pittsburgh. We came to California when I was three because I had such a terrible time with hay fever and sinus trouble. I've been here most of my life.

"I remember the first Little Person I met. I knew there was something strange about him. Not me, but him. Anyway, we were both in vaudeville at the time. I was 12-years-old and he was 15-years-old. I thought it was very unusual that a guy this Little was smoking, drinking and living it up. Actually, I remember feeling quite uncomfortable about the situation at the time."

Q. You and Shirley have been married 17 years and

we know that you have two children. Lori Ellen is 15-years-old and is short statured and Braden is eight-years-old and is average size. What do you tell parents with children who are both average and short statured?

A. "I tell parents to be just that...parents. I do know that Braden's association with Little People has helped him understand a lot of things."

Q. Tell us about the founding of LPA. Why did you do it and how did it come about?

A. "There were a lot of clubs that tried to organize Little People but failed. I was first introduced to other Little People by Anna Dixon. I knew there was a need for a National Organization and the opportunity arose in Reno, Nev. in 1957.

"At the time I was traveling with Spike Jones band and could get the publicity out that we needed. It was a rough first three years but slowly, I could see LPA start to take shape. I helped develop the first set of by-laws for the organization and also wrote a plan calling for the LPA Foundation."

Q. I know that you have an upcoming movie with Jerry Lewis in Miami and that you are appearing in an upcoming "Supertrain" episode. But I want to know if you still have any goals you'd like to accomplish at this point in your career?

A. "Well my first goal is to shoot a 78 on the golf course. Then I would like to direct in motion pictures if I can find some backers. I also would like to play the lead in a movie with a real meaty part.

"Actually, I think I've accomplished most of my goals. I'm quite happy with life."

The Big Problems 'Little People' Face

Sue and
Jim Bogle
walk arm
in arm
to their
gun shop
in San
Diego



By ELAINE SMYTH

Jim Bogle loves an audience. A single listener will do.

It's probably a holdover from his earlier days when, starting at 15, he worked in vaudeville and then the Tom Mix Circus.

He'll regale you with a smattering of some of his offbeat experiences over the last 56 years as a little man in a big man's world.

But he also willingly shares some of the countless indignities and disadvantages.

"Forget about all those things I told you about myself," he said in a modest interview. "Why don't you just talk about 'the club?'"

The club is the first San Diego County Chapter of Little People of America, Inc., which elected Mr. Bogle president recently.

By phone and in person, Mr. Bogle has the booming voice of a man three times his size: 4 feet, 6 inches.

Mr. Bogle and his second wife, Sue, are co-owners of a gun shop.

They are the parents of a 27-year-old son, Brent, who is

6 feet 3. Mr. Bogle also has a son by his first marriage, Terry, 33, who is 5 feet 6.

"The problem there was just the reverse of the average parents with little people," Mr. Bogle said.

"The kids at school gave the boys a lot of teasing, like, 'Hey, your old man's a midget — a dwarf. You're never gonna grow 'cause he's so little.' It really bothered them a lot and they often came home crying."

Sue, dark-haired and a slim 5 feet, says her husband's shortness has never been a real problem in their 29-year-old marriage.

"We never argue," Jim says. "We don't believe in it. We always talk things out."

"The only problem I have is every once in awhile I have to yell at her, 'Hey, honey, get me this. It's too high for me to reach.'"

He's immaculate in his dress, right down to his cowboy boots. At 110 pounds, Mr. Bogle admits, "I'm a little on the fat side. I want to get down to 100 or 105."

"Most little people tend to be on the heavy side, and I'm trying to correct that in my case."

His ever-present humor has helped him overcome many of the handicaps of being short.

"I didn't pay much attention to it until I was ready to go to kindergarten when I was 6," he says. "They said I was too small and had to grow a little first. So, I started school when I was 8."

Mr. Bogle laughs and adds, "But I made it up later on. I skipped two grades."

Many little people prefer to remain anonymous, he says.

"I think the reason is that they live in a big world and never actually come into contact with many other little people."

"And I think they're shy about it. In some cases, they don't even consider themselves as little people because they're so used to living in a big world that they don't even think about it."

"The purpose of the club is to help these little people and

their parents by providing information and answers to their questions as to how they can face some of their life as a little person in society."

"Some of our older people have gone through many of these experiences and they can help them," Jim adds.

The years from childhood through 21 are about the worst, he recalls.

Dating is a problem unless one little person meets another little person.

Romance is just a small part of the total picture.

Sports are a problem whether one has the ability or not, he says. And most public buildings are still a hassle.

"You go into a bus terminal or an airport or any place else where there are waiting rooms, and all the chairs are too big; telephones are gener-

Oakland Tribune Sun., May 8, 1977 3C 19

people

ally too high, and in rest rooms, the facilities are even a problem."

Mr. Bogle's bus travels often were simplified as a youth when the captain of the football team helped him on and off the buses.

"Now I have my life pretty well established. We own our own business, but I had a lot of problems in the past as a young adult trying to find work."

He was graduated as an electronics engineer from Alfred University in New York, attended UCLA and took extension courses at Purdue University.

As a beginning engineer, he was first assigned to the drafting room where the drawing boards were 4 by 8 feet.

"I had to climb up on the stool and kneel on it, too. Then, I was only 4 feet 3 in my 20s, so I had to climb all over that thing."

On another job, Jim was supervisor to two men who were six-footers.

"One day I was walking down the aisle between these two guys and one of the executives of the company turned to another and said, 'Guess which one's the boss?'"

Copley News Service

Dwarfs . . .

But in the Bay Area, 75 short-statured individuals belong to the local Little People of America (LPA) organization. Another 125 average-sized friends and relatives also belong to LPA.

LPA began nearly 20 years ago. Today more than 2,500 members attend LPA meetings coast to coast. LPA provides a place to meet other little people, exchange ideas and share solutions to the unique problems short-statured people face. Some of those problems can be very annoying.

"It's hard to find adult-looking clothes in our sizes," Harriet says. "So when someone in the group discovers a store with good clothes or shoes, they let the rest of us know."

"Shoes are a real problem," Al says. "Our feet are very wide and

short. And we don't want to go around in children's shoes."

Short-statured men in the Bay Area have at least one store where they can order clothes. But the women have to search through children's departments, or sew their own.

"You can imagine what it feels like to be 45 or 46 and the only shoes you can find that fit are shiny black patent leather, like six-year-olds wear," Harriet says.

Pay phones are the bane of all short-statured people's existences. "You've got a flat tire," Al says. "You walk a half-mile to a pay phone, and you can't put the dime in. They've lowered the phones at the airport, but the regular pay phones are useless to us."

In order to drive, short-statured people have special gas and

brake pedal extensions put on their cars. "And we have to have the dimmer switch put up on the dashboard," Al said. "When we go some place where we'll be renting a car, or using a relative's car, we take our pedal extensions with us."

Besides the physical nuisances, there are the many psychological challenges of being "different."

"Children are always surprised when they see us grocery shopping," Harriet said. "The other day a little girl said, 'Look at the puppets walking.' We thought that was original. Sometimes parents spank their child for pointing at us. I think that gives the child the feeling that we're bad. The parent should explain that we're really adults, just short adults. After all, if the child wasn't curious, there'd be something wrong with him."

Al says the worst insults come

▶▶▶

Kmart
... gives satisfaction always

Sale

SPORT COATS OF DACRON®

Our Reg. 34.88
Sale Ends Wednesday

\$29

Fashion firsts in woven Dacron® polyester with single-breasted, center-vent styling. Four roomy pockets, and two inside chest pockets. In newest solid colors.

*DuPont Reg. TM.

DRESS SLACKS OF DACRON®

Our Reg. 13.96
Sale Ends Wednesday

\$10

Men's mature-cut dress flares of double knit Dacron® polyester. With belt loops, buttoned-flap back pockets, offset front pockets. In right-for-spring patterns.

*DuPont Reg. TM.

NEAT KNIT DRESS SHIRTS

Our Reg. 7.96
Sale Ends Wednesday

\$6

Men's long-sleeve dress knits in comfortable cotton/polyester jersey knit. Easy to wear as a tee shirt styled for good fit. In super-sharp solid colors.

Our Reg. 3.96 Rich Polyester Fashion Ties:
Men's Classic or Ready-tied Styles 2.88



Long-sleeved
Shirts \$6

Fashion Ties, 2.88

Men's Sport
Coats, \$29

DUPONT
Dacron

Men's Knit Slacks, \$10



Dwarfs . . .



The Stickeys battle the problems of short people in stores and at home.

from older people. "They pat us on the head and say, 'Gee you're little,' as though we don't already know that," Al says. "Or, 'Gee you're cute.'"

Both Harriet and Al have been national officers of LPA. They actively promote better understanding of short-statured people through personal appearances on TV or radio talk-shows.

"Only three per cent of our people are in entertainment," Al says. "Yet everyone seems to think if we're dwarfs, we're in entertainment. Actually, most of us are accountants or bookkeepers. We also have artists, administrators, teachers, doctors, engineers, TV repair people, and so on. We work in almost every occupational field imaginable."

Since dwarfism is not hereditary, average-sized parents can have a dwarfed child, or dwarf parents can have an average-sized child.

Joe and Delores Vercellino have an averaged-sized son, even though they are both short-statured.

"Our son is 11," Delores says. "And we have difficulties when we're out in public. He's uncomfortable because strangers have made comments about the size difference between us." Delores is three-foot-eight, while Joe is four feet tall. "But I think things will mellow out a little as our son grows older."

Delores feels she's treated as most average-sized people are treated. "Except for children. They always comment on how small I

am," she says. "In the grocery store and places like that they come up and ask me why I'm so short. I say, 'God made me little.' They stop and think, and usually react alright. They probably think that's logical."

Delores worked for years as a manicurist. Joe works for United Air Lines.

"During the war the men got into aircraft maintenance because they could get into places where average-sized men couldn't," Delores says. "That really opened up job opportunities. Before that it was difficult getting jobs. You know, people thought that because we were physically short, we were probably a little short on brains too. But attitudes have changed."

She paused, then added, "A few years back people thought we

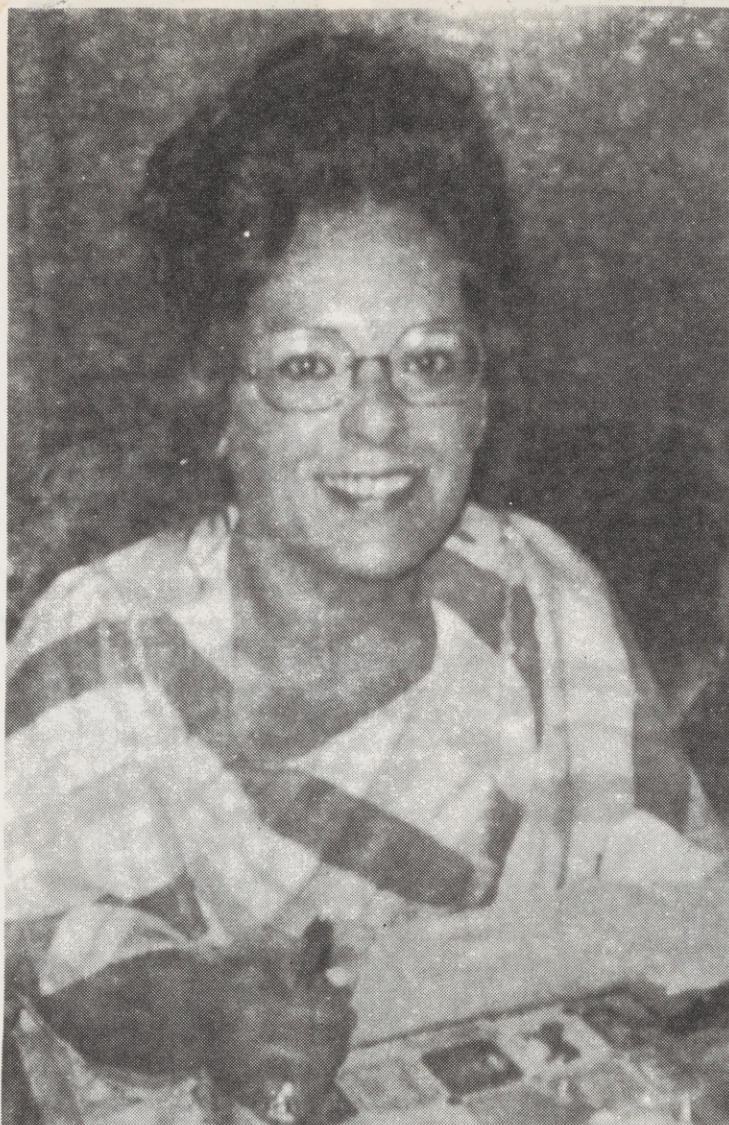
all belonged in the circus. But it's better now. We have regular jobs, regular lives."

Two of Delores' pet peeves are unreachable elevator buttons, and towels in public bathrooms. "They're usually too high for me to reach."

"We learn to be nonconformists from an early age," Harriet says. "We're constantly having to adapt to an over-sized environment."

"You can't make any blanket statement about little people," Al Stickney contends. "We're all different individuals. About the only generalization you can make is that we're short. And we live in two worlds."

One of those worlds is grossly over-sized.



LINDA SOUZA

OCTOBER 31, 1943 - AUGUST 17, 1977

"A true friend is the
best possession."

. . . Copied . . .



AILEEN GARMAN

"My beloved is gone down into His
garden . . . to gather lilies."
Song of Solomon 6:7

"Who has taken this flower?" cried
the gardener as he walked through
the garden and missed his favorite
beauty from the place.

His fellow servant answered, "The
Master," and the gardener held his
peace.

When that much loved and beautiful
rare flower is missed, and you are
told that the Master has taken it,
hold your peace in sublime submis-
sion to his will.

...Copied

OCTOBER 11, 1944 - AUGUST 31, 1977



Frieda Valuckas

Berkeley Gazette
**Little people
to address
Altrusa Club**

Nino Carlino, past presi-
dent of San Francisco Bay
Area Chapter of Little
People, with Bob East,
Harriet Stickney, and
Ivonne Farrington, will be
the speakers when mem-
bers and guests of Altrusa
Club of Berkeley meet at
7:30 p.m., April 17, in the
auditorium of Herrick
Memorial Hospital, 2000
Dwight Way.
Topic for the evening
will be "Individuals of
short stature through fel-
lowship find solution to the
challenge of little people."
Jeanette Cornell is chair-
man and the hostess is Ag-
ness Bierwagen. 4/8/78

EVERYTHING



Ellie Jones



Robert Alan Dow, Simi Valley,
with Santa in October????????



A little doll--Michelle Stone--
with proud mom, Barbara.



Keep your eye on
the bowling ball,
Shirley Rosenberg!



Peggy Hamilton--Monique's
Mom.



Georgia & Dana Guild--back
in the 60's



Big Buck (San Diego) &
our little Monique . .



A lovely surprise for Judy
Byzewski ??



Swimmer Kathy
Erb, Palmdale



After the Ascot Races--"And they were exciting."
From L. to R., back row--Aileen, Judy, Darla,
Pam; front row--Vicki, Shirley & Heather. (J.
Jackson was there too--he is taking picture.)



Frieda Valuckas

Berkeley Gazette
**Little people
to address
Altrusa Club**

Nino Carlino, past president of San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Little People, with Bob East, Harriet Stickney, and Ivonne Farrington, will be the speakers when members and guests of Altrusa Club of Berkeley meet at 7:30 p.m., April 17, in the auditorium of Herrick Memorial Hospital, 2000 Dwight Way.

Topic for the evening will be "Individuals of short stature through fellowship find solution to the challenge of little people." Jeanette Cornell is chairman and the hostess is Agness Bierwagen. 4/8/78

EVERYTHING



Ellie Jones

District reports

From the brisk
New England Coast. . .

District 1

The February meeting started with a dinner of turkey, lasagna, salad, home-made cookies and brownies, coffee, punch and soda. In the magic show, Allen Giangrande made hot-dogs out of meatballs, new member Kerry White made a white rabbit appear, and Joey Purcell attempted unsuccessfully to make the American flag re-appear. Instead, what he did make appear was a pair of BVD's! Each child received a "magic card" to be placed under his pillow, where a quarter would later magically appear in its place. There was a ceramics demonstration and the raffling of a ceramic bunny, which Frieda Hochstadt won. The children also made their own little bunnies. The Giangrandes hosted the meeting in Hamden, Conn. Douglas Roth of Waltham, Mass., hosted a March 20 meeting in his home. Mary Bishop and her mother highlighted the party by giving "disco" dancing les-

members in their home in Long Island City, N.Y., March 20. In April, the district met at Kathy, Carol and Mike Roche's home in Bayside, N.Y.

A big district event May 20-22, was the spring regional in Albany, N.Y., at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge. District officers were elected at the meeting, for which no details were available at press time.

A three-day camp-out planned by Susan Kadish for the young adults and teenagers was May 27-30, in Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains.

The July district meeting will be hosted by the Pers family.

Members should consult future District Two newsletters for plans pertaining to a July picnic in the New York City area.

The Mets-New York City Chapter met March 27 at Mike and Kathy Roche's home. The group is looking for members' homes in which to have future meetings.

Members of the Long Island Chapter are scheduling regular monthly meetings. District members in



GEORGE FERNANDEZ, ARGENTINA SENDS GREETINGS TO DIST. 12 FRIENDS.....



Nancy Rowell of Des Moines, Iowa, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Drake University in Des Moines May 14. Several fellow LPA members attended the graduation exercises. Shown left to right, front row, are Tom Haggermann and Marilyn Zellmann; second row: Jill Hanel, Nelda Hagge, Nancy, and Stella Shetterly. All are from District Nine. This fall Nancy will attend the University of Iowa Graduate School's College of Education in counseling the Handicapped.



Central Florida October Chapter Meeting I to r, 1st row, Lou Scharrer, Bobby Van Etten, Jenifer Arnold, Debbie Wanzie, Sky Burr, Angle Shield. 2nd row, Jack Cusumano, Carol Scharrer, Carol Konopasek, and Michael Ink.



District Eight's Memorial Day Weekend district meeting was held at the Le Baron Hotel in Houston, prospective site of the 1978 national convention. Pictured in front, left to right, are Mary Carten, Louisa Guidroz, Mary Ann Mackey, Sandy Morris, Alida Harville, Dana Garrison, Karle Rockwood, Dawn Hull, David Marshall, Shelley Smith, Nikki Smith, Allison Queal, Diann Locicero, Janna Townsend (from Arkansas) and Gary Smith; second row: Jeff Davis, Margaret Guidroz, Monica Carten, Lee Kitchens, Marilyn Roberts,

Nancy Rockwood and Gail Hull; third row: Danny Blain, Sandra Kitchens, Mary Kitchens, Susie Barnes, Becky Brown, Colleen Dailey, Grady Horndt and Mary Beth Eley; fourth row: Barbara Christofferson, Kathie Blain, George Ann Turner, Caprice Perrine, Selma Burman, Colleen Horndt, Kitty Phillips and Ron Rockwood; fifth row: Tim Deatherage, George Cromwell, Ann Cromwell, Frances Stuntz, Jack McKenzie and Mary Ellen McSpedden; sixth row: Frances Billingsley, David Alvarado, Beth Ohrum and Jon Stuntz.



Los Angeles Times photo

BRIAN LUNA, CENTER, PLAYS CARDS WITH HIS FRIENDS
The 7-year-old is one of the nation's 100,000 "little people"

Size doesn't dwarf boy

By ROBERT J. GORE
The Los Angeles Times

WEST COVINA — Alex Luna vividly recalls how he found out that his 4-month-old son, Brian, would always remain a little person. Barbara, his wife, sobbing so hard she could not speak, handed him a card with the pediatrician's two-word diagnosis: "Achondroplastic dwarf."

Brian Luna is one of America's estimated 100,000 "little people," so nicknamed for their stature.

In a series of aftershocks to the disturbing diagnosis seven years ago, the Lunas soon learned that there was little information available on dwarfism and much trouble ahead for their son: Physical abuse, merciless teasing, staring and the persistent belief that people who share his disability are retarded.

The couple turned for help to Little People of America, the organization founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty, which in turn referred them to the University of California, Los Angeles Short Stature Clinic at Harbor General Hospital and Dr. David Rimoin. Rimoin said Brian suffers from a congenital bone disease. "There are hundreds of causes of dwarfism — some are genetic and others are glandular."

Rimoin also explained that there are two types of dwarf, proportionate and disproportionate. Physicians do not recognize the word "midget," he said.

Repaying their debt to the association, the Lunas have visited little people and their parents to make them aware. They have appeared on television interview shows as well. "I want to make sure other parents in our position did not have to go through what we did," he said.

Although Luna, a 38-year-old Southern California Gas Co. supervisor who lives here in West Covina, and Barbara, a secretary from nearby Covina, were divorced when Brian was 5 years old, they continue to share the desire that "Brian have outgoing, positive role models," he said.

Brian's friends at the association were able to help the Lunas when



BRIAN GETS RIDE
From his dad, Alex

their son ran into his first real problem at school last year. "I wanted Brian to go to public schools to learn the system and to have friends. Some teachers suggested special schools. That's a lot of baloney. I'm not going to hide him away," Luna said.

But school involved difficulties. Barbara said Brian would come home distraught. "The first two weeks of school were absolute hell," she said. Some of the other children were constantly hitting and teasing Brian.

Luna asked Barty to speak to the children at the school. Barty agreed and brought Tommy Madden and Tony Cox, two other actors who are also little people. The three spoke at an assembly. Barbara said the results were "absolutely wonderful. The children treat Brian like anyone else now and the teach-

ers understand more about him."

Madden and Brian became fast friends as a result of the assembly. The 35-year-old actor visits Brian regularly. "So many average-sized parents shun their children when they discover they have a little person. They put them in closets and totally disown them," Madden said as he watched Brian play cards with two friends on the living room floor of Luna's apartment.

"Parents must understand and help their children to understand that they are not dwarfs or midgets or freaks. They're little people," Madden said.

At the same time, Madden said, little people must learn they will be patted on the head ("That's one thing I hate") and must prepare for a lifetime of weight-watching and chronic back and leg problems.

"It's important for children like Brian to learn very young what to expect from the rest of the world," Madden said, "and you can't fight it. You have to learn to accept it or you'll wind up with a tremendous chip on your shoulder. Unfortunately, that's not uncommon among little people."

His son has learned from Madden, Luna said. "Brian can deal with quite a bit now. He's full of questions about his body, his clothes, his future . . . everything." Luna said his daughter, Laurie, 15, and Robert Sylvester, a young friend, have been a great help with Brian.

With a low front door knob, strategically placed stepping stools and an extended light switch in the bathroom, Brian is on his own at home. "He does everything any other 7-year-old would do — he just moves chairs around to get into things," Barbara said, "but he is very sensitive about hurting another's feelings."

Brian has his own, 7-year-old philosophy. "You can't be chicken, you gotta be brave, but sometimes you gotta ignore 'em, too," he said while trying to peek at his friend's cards. Then Brian looked up, pondering a sober thought.

"I'm just like everyone else," he said, "I'm just littler."

PROFILES

Al and Harriet Stickney

By Ed Land
Special Correspondent

When you think of the West Coast and LPA, two people who should come to mind are Harriet and Al Stickney. This couple has been a driving force behind LPA for almost 20 years and have been a virtual institution in the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

This year Harriet coordinated the National Convention Workshops which covered a board spectrum of topics ranging from assertive training to senior citizens in LPA.

Both Harriet and Al are unique individuals who have and will continue to make their mark in Little People of America.

Q. Al, how did you get involved in LPA?

A. I got involved by meeting people who were LPs in the Bay Area. I met Albert Anderson many years ago. Al used to sell newspapers on one of San Francisco's biggest corners on Grant and Market. Al, an LP and his wife became the most visible Little People in the area and were among the first 20 people to meet in Reno, Nev. in 1957. I got involved in the organization in 1961.

Q. Harriet, how did you become involved in LPA?

A. I joined in 1963 under very unusual circumstances. I had a niece who had four brothers and one fall she decided to join Brownies. She was very proud of the fact that she was doing something completely different than her brothers.

One day she saw an article in Life Magazine about clubs to join and LPA was listed in the article. She hounded me to join but I kept telling her that I didn't have time to join any more organizations.

Al and Harriet Stickney . . .

From page 3

A. No, none at all. A very unusual relationship develops between the children and the short teacher. They almost believe that you are the youngster in charge. The discipline in a situation like that has to be very positive, though.

I taught primary school from grades two to four. I still teach Sunday school here in San Mateo and lecture very often to children in schools in and around the area.

If you can reach children and have them get to know you, it settles a lot of their prejudices and feelings. If we reach the children now, they will be better understanding adults. Our visits exposes them to another segment of the population. As one kid said, 'I never saw a dwarf before except on television.'

Q. What do you and Al want to be remembered for through your association in LPA?

A. Al said it quite succinctly once stating that, 'All I want is for every dwarf to know there's LPA. Then it is up to them to capitalize on that opportunity.'

I think that we are caring and sharing enough so that we pass some of those feelings on to other people. We need to reach out and help other people. We try to pass on a legacy of LPA. I certainly hope we have done our part to help reach this goal.

Profiles

From page 2

At that point I was a school teacher in Wisconsin and was quite active in a number of teacher related organization.

My niece didn't give up, however. One day she asked: 'Aunt Harriet, are there going to be children who will be born just like you?' and of course I had to say yes. She replied, 'If you help average sized kids, why don't you help kids who will be your size?'

I guess she laid a real guilt trip on me and after that I wrote to Bob Brower, president of LPA. In 1963 I attended my first national convention and was put in charge of the childrens' activities.

Q. Al, tell us a little about your background?

A. I was born in Kansas but my background is actually from Massachusetts. My father was a career serviceman and we traveled everywhere. I went to public schools and was manager of several athletic teams at Stoneham, Mass. High School.

Q. Harriet, how about your background?

A. I was one of six children and grew up on a dairy farm outside of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. With two older brothers, I found life very interesting. There were plenty of things to do. I had my set of responsibilities like anyone else. I picked strawberries and weeded carrots.

One day my sister and I had a slight argument and my mother told us to exchange jobs. After that experience, we happily went back to our original jobs.

I was raised with discipline tempered with love. I also was made to do things for myself which I still believe is very important. In my house, if you want a drink, you know where your stool is. Get your stool, take the water and put everything back where it belongs.

My mother died when I was 14 but she and my father were very concerned that I would grow up and be a benefit to society. My father felt that I had something to give and I should share it with those who needed it.

Q. Let's jump to the present for a bit. Tell us about the National Convention this year and in particular, the workshops which you coordinated?

A. The workshops went very well this year. There were 12 in all and a new workshop called 'Dwarfed people with average spouses, was very well received. We have overlooked them but they discussed how they can help LPA and they also discussed their relationships.

We are going through a real positive thing in LPA where people are beginning to accept all sorts of combinations. In the years I started with the group, if you married an average sized person, they practically didn't even want you in LPA.

Dr. Lillian Glass coordinated a very important speech and hearing workshop and the Golden Circle Workshop for LPs over 50 was a real surprise. We had 10 people in that workshop and seven of those were men. Georgia Gild did a fine job moderating that panel.

I'm not trying to be facetious but even LPs must face the fact that they are growing older. We cannot do things as intently as we once did. Francis Duckworth and I remarked that it is nice to be able to sit back and watch the younger people of LPA carry on the work we started.

Al and Harriet Stickney

Q. You both have certainly contributed a great deal since joining LPA. Harriet, you served as National Vice President from 1970 to 1974 and Al, you were District 12 director from 1969 to 1975. Harriet, you still lead the Parent Group in the Bay Area, serve as chapter treasurer and still have a large interest in children. But tell us, is it more important to gear towards the parent or the child when meeting a family for the first time?

A. (Harriet) I believe it depends on what age you meet the family with the child.

If the child is very young, you gear towards the parent. Also, as the child begins to begin school, the parent needs you to relate experiences that child may encounter in school. You gear to the child later when he or she is around 10, 11, or 12 and in their teen years.

The parent also is very concerned about the medical status of that child. We have tried and I believe succeeded in building a good rapport with several area hospitals including the Stanford Medical Center, the San Francisco Medical Center, the Shriners' Hospital and both Children's Hospitals in Oakland and San Francisco. Instead of having to go to them, they now send new LPs directly to us.

Q. Al, you've worked for United Airlines for 25 years, what do you do?

A. I'm a maintenance planner for United's operation in the Bay area. I attended the Wentworth Technical Institute in Boston and have an Aeronautical and Power License.

I've been very fortunate because I believe that United hired me for my experience and not my height. People used to think that they hired me because I was short and could climb around those hard to get areas on the plane but that wasn't so. Besides, I'm a little round to get into those areas anymore.

Q. Harriet, you were a teacher for 12 years in Wisconsin, did you find any problems relating to your size and discipline of children?

Turn to page 4



Harriet and Al Stickney

San Francisco

TODAY

Serving San Francisco's Sunset-Parkside-Parkmerced

Vol. 5—No. 27

Circulation 589-9075

San Francisco, California, Wednesday, July 6, 1977

Editorial 589-9077

15c Per Copy

BOODY
modify recipes
to lower calories

page 2

Parkside Club
holds election
meeting

page 9

TRUMAN
how to recharge
emotional batteries

page 12

Concert slated

As a composer for 7 years, Michael Lee Gogan reflects a talented and versatile entertainer whose future career appears potentially very successful.

He will perform with his 5 piece Folk-Jazz group in a free concert. July 16 at Union Square, Geary and Powell Streets, to 2:30 p.m.

Gogan has gained and maintained a local San Francisco - Bay Area following. He is equally proficient with the electric and acoustical guitar and demonstrates a unique and original method when playing piano. He has participated in musical sessions with such notable performers as Vince Guaraldi and Don McLean and is currently directing his attention to the preparation of a single recording to be promoted on a national basis.

San Francisco Progress

Michael Lee Gogan folk - jazz ensemble — Free concert, Embarcadero Plaza, Market and Steuart Streets, 1 to 2:30 p.m.



Michael Lee Gogin

Michael attends the California State University, San Francisco, majoring in Music and Broadcast Communication Arts.

His local performance engagements include the following:

- San Francisco Annual Students' Arts Festival
- UNICEF Promotional Campaign—San Francisco Bay Area
- KQED Television—Open Studio
- Golden Gate Park—Concert Concourse Area
- Sigmund Stern Grove
- Grace Cathedral, St. Mary's Cathedral—Religious entertainment
- Keystone Club—Berkeley
- Owl and Monkey Cafe—San Francisco
- Local High School and College Benefit Programs



A Small Team Came Out as A Big Winner

By ANTHONY RUSSO
Times Staff Writer

*Short people are just the same as you and I.
All men are brothers until the day they die.*

PLEASANT HILL — You don't have to remind Neno and Mary Jane Carlino about the prejudice against short people that Randy Newman writes about in his song "Short People."

Or that the two lines above somehow got lost in the mild furor over the song.

Neno and Mary Jane are dwarfs. They've been living with prejudice all their lives. To them, the reaction to Newman's song is just another reminder that people still measure height in inches, not character.

The Richmond couple, who have been married 16 years, insist they lead normal lives.

Neno is a metal sorter at a Mare Island factory. He's been there 11 years. Mary Jane remains at home, taking care of her family.

The couple has four children, two girls of normal height, and two boys who are dwarfs.

Both Neno and Mary Jane drive cars with the help of special equipment in their cars. Neno plays softball for a little people organization, which won a game last Sunday in Pleasant Hill over taller competition.

They do just about everything people of average height do, according to Mary Jane.

"We don't want anyone to feel sorry for us," she said. "We just want to be treated like everyone else."

But often that's not the case. "It's tougher for us to get jobs," she continued. "Employers don't believe we can do the work. We really have to prove ourselves."

"And it hurts to get turned down for a job just because of height. But it happens. And you just have to look for another one."

Mary Jane also said dwarfs do not like to be called cute or midgets. She considers the word midget a slang reserved for dwarfs in show business. "And we don't like most of them," she said. "They show off too much."

For the last few years, the Carlinos have been trying to get area dwarfs together to deal with the problems they face. Mary Jane is president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Little People of America, an organization started 22 years ago by actor Billy Barty, who is also a dwarf. Her husband is vice-president.

The club has more than 2,000 members worldwide. The Bay area chapter is 16 years old and has 75 members, some from Contra Costa County.

The club provides job assistance for dwarfs, psychological and medical services, appliances needed to alter equipment to fit their size and counseling for parents of dwarf children, who Mary Jane calls "little, little people."

"You'd be surprised how many parents have little people they hide in closets," she said. "We try to help them realize there's nothing to be ashamed of. We tell them to treat and love their kids just like any other child."

The organization also sponsors social events like picnics, banquets and conventions.

"A lot of us met our spouses at conventions," Mary Jane said. "It's quite a thrill to be around people your own size."

And last Sunday, the group's softball team, the Stumps, played an exhibition game at Pleasant Hill Park against a Concord C division softball team before about 200 spectators.



Ron Hackl connects for a home run as catcher Cliff Flud and umpire Roy Bristow look on.
Photos By Bob Pepping

**'We Always
Win—That's
Our Rule'**

The Stumps won 27 - 5.

But then they always do. "We always win," Neno said. "That's our only rule."

The club takes donations during their games and puts them toward a Little People's Health Clinic they're building in San Francisco. They made about \$100 from Sunday's contest.

"We take our knocks," she said. "Especially the children. They get kidded a lot. 'Sometimes we wish things were different. But you can't feel sorry for us. We just make the best of our situation.'"

And the Carlinos say they're basically happy. "Remember," Mary Jane said. "The only distance we have to conquer is the the distance between our ears."



A jubilant Allan Nichols scores as the catcher offers his congratulations.



About 70 little people and auxiliary members attended the District Six spring regional April 21-23 in Joliet, Ill.

Eileen Hagan was elected as the new district director at the meeting.

Sheriff's Ladies to Meet

Mr. and Mrs. Neno Carlino, presidents of "Little People of America, Inc.," will be guest speakers at Thursday's 7:30 p.m. meeting in the Holiday Inn of Sheriff's Ladies of Contra Costa County. Following dinner will be a business meeting and discussion on "Little People" and problems they encounter.

Also on the agenda are discussions on the carpet installed at Edgar Cottage for neglected children and donated by Stubbs Carpets through the Sheriff's Ladies, as well as the chapel at the Rehabilitation Center in Clayton. A pulpit from old St. Mary's Church in San Francisco has been donated for the chapel, one of Sheriff's Ladies' main projects.

Contributions to the project can be made by calling Mrs. W. M. Hicks, president, of Concord, or Sheriff Walter F. Young who sponsors the Sheriff's Ladies.

Mrs. Lill Frommer is chairman of dinner arrangements.



This group from District Eleven gathered in Spokane, Wash., Oct. 22-24 for the fall regional, held at the Desert Sahara Motor Lodge. The main business topic was the LPA national convention,

which will be in Portland, Oregon, Aug. 1-5, 1977. For information about committees appointed to head convention activities, see District Eleven's report on page 4.



SPECIAL EVENTS PARTIES
SPECIAL BALLOONS

"Puddles The Clown"

BOBBY POE
16401 SAN PABLO AVE., SPACE 217
SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA 94806
(415) 758-5404

Little People In Benefit Ball Game

Little People of the Bay Area, who play softball for fun and their favorite charity, will take on the Walnut Creek Gold Mine in a regulation game at 1 p.m. Sunday at Willow Pass Park in Concord.

The "Stumps," as they are known, are managed by Bob East and make a number of appearances in the Bay Area and Northern California each season.

There will be no admission charge, but spectators are urged to donate \$1 which is turned over to the team's charity fund.

Straw Hat Pizza of Concord is sponsoring the benefit game.

Gold Mine is a member of the B Softball League playing out of Concord under manager Gary Gabel, who arranged the contest.

Midgets challenge coaches

ASHLAND — A team of midgets will play the managers and coaches of the Ashland Little League Sunday afternoon in a fund-raising event for the league.

The game with the Little People of America is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. on the Little League diamond behind Edendale School off Ashland Avenue. Tickets, at \$1 for adults and 50 cents for youngsters, may be purchased at the park.

The game will be the first of two league fund-raising scheduled for May.

The following Sunday, May 8, a Mother's Day pancake breakfast will be held in San Leandro's McKinley School at 2150 E. 14th St. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fathers will be charged \$1.50, senior youths \$1 and children under 12 75 cents, but mothers will be free.

Combating tall folks' ignorance

By **STEVE NASH**
Staff Writer

BERKELEY—Bob East didn't see another dwarf until he was 16, but when it happened, it was a revelation.

His father had always given him money to stay away from the circuses that visited Modesto, fearing his son would be stolen and put on exhibition.

But when East grew older he went to a carnival, and by coinci-

dence, a lady dwarf was part of the troupe.

She beckoned him over after the show, and told him about the places she had seen. Perhaps the most important thing she left with him was the knowledge that there were others like himself.

That is one of the reasons why an organization of dwarfs, Little People of America, exists. And for Bob East, a mainstay of the group's Bay Area chapter, it is especially important to help dwarf

children over the physical and social obstacles he faced.

The group helps such children — there are about 30 in the Bay Area alone — to learn that they are less than others only in stature, and that they share their size with thousands all over the world.

The panel of dwarfs that appeared at the Altrusa Club, a Berkeley women's service group,

Continued on Page 6



Dr. Joan Ablon (left) talks with Little People president Mary Carlino and Nina Carlino.

Tribune photo by ROY WILLIAMS

Dwarfs' life-strategy: grow by standing tall

Continued from Page 1

included East, a machinist and inventor who has made 600 sets of special automobile controls sent to dwarfs all over the United States; Harriet Stickney, a retired school teacher; her husband Alfred, an aircraft mechanic for United Airlines; Daniel Margulies, a mechanical engineer who tests submarines for the U.S. Navy; and Nino Carlino, a metal segregator at Mare Island.

The panel explained that children of two dwarf parents have a 50-50 chance of being average-sized. Dwarf children—called "little littles"—are also born to parents who are both average-sized.

About one birth in 10,000 is a dwarf, but the infant mortality rate is high. There are an estimated 50,000 American dwarfs.

"Doctors, bless their hearts, try hard, but they still don't know much sometimes," said Margulies.

Families to whom a dwarf child is born are often given misinformation or no information at all about the child's chance to pursue a career, marry, and lead a normal, happy life.

To combat this ignorance, Little People of America raises funds for medical research, scholarships, employment seminars, and an information network to reach physicians and other "little people."

Margulies says the term "little people" was chosen as the least offensive, "but actually, we would prefer just being called by our own names, not by any labels."

This isn't always easy, as Margulies knows. When he had earned an engineering degree, he was turned away by several firms, sometimes for vague reasons.

Sometimes he was told outright, however, that at 4 feet 8 inches, he didn't fit the "company image."

The dwarfs have a strong streak of humor. One slogan is "think big," another advises that "the only distance we have to conquer is between our ears," and they have formed a basketball team called the Stumps.

But their most consistent effort, Margulies said, is to "blend in...you try to be yourself as much as possible and hope the world will treat you as an average-sized person."

Turning adversity into an advantage

By John Stark

WHEN A casting call went out for someone to play French artist Toulouse-Lautrec in "Vive, Paris, Vive" at Bimbo's, San Francisco musician Michael Gogin decided to audition. Gogin was hired for the musical review the moment he walked into the casting director's room . . .

The 22-year-old performer didn't have to read a line, sing a note or even walk on his knees. He had the most important qualification—his height, or lack of. Gogin is a mere 4-feet-3.

"I am a little person, or a midget," he said. "I don't mind being called a midget. It's a correct medical term for someone who's small with a compact body. I don't like being called a dwarf, though. A dwarf's body is not in correct proportion."

Gogin's family is San Francisco vintage. Michael, who bears a striking resemblance to Paul Williams, is third generation Irish-Italian. His father is a stockbroker at Dean Witter, and his mother a saleswoman at I. Magnin's. Michael, who has a brother and sister, lives with his folks in the Sunset.

"When I was born I was a physical mess," Gogin said. "I had stumps for legs and fins for feet. I



Examiner Photo by Judith Calson

Gogin said he's the youngest man on the West Coast to have two plastic hips

had a cleft palate and a double set of contractive muscles in my stomach. The doctors told my father I wasn't going to make it.

"My family is perfectly normal, so the chances of my being born with so many defects were one in a million. As a kid I called St. Joseph's Hospital my second home. Through surgery and casts my legs and feet were formed and built. I can't say it wasn't painful. I am the youngest

man on the West Coast to have two plastic hips."

It was through the love of his family that Gogin learned to accept his role in life. "I can be anything I want," he said. "God makes all kinds. Wouldn't it be a mess if we were all the same? The highest compliment someone can pay me is to say, 'Michael, you may look small, but you're really a giant.'"

Gogin isn't a Pollyanna about

man's inhumanity to man. "I really hate it when people pat me on the head and say, 'Aren't you a cute little boy!' The other night I went with a friend of mine who's a dwarf to Dance Your Ass Off. People kept coming up and asking him if he worked for the circus."

Besides playing Toulouse-Lautrec, Gogin has a four-man band named after himself. The group is currently booked between shows at Bimbo's.



Gogin as Toulouse-Lautrec

Examiner Photo by Katy Raddatz

Sunday, October 22, 1978

Little People Size Things Up, Cite Bias

By CARL RITTER

Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

After registering here yesterday for the convention he is heading up over the weekend, Texas native Davey Lamb introduced his wife, Lois, to a visitor in the presidential suite the couple is occupying in the Seven Seas Lodge.

As Western District director of Little People of America and obviously not one of Texas' larger specimens, he felt compelled to say a little something about size.

"I'm 4-4 and Lois is 4-2," he said.

Lois corrected him. "I'm 4-1," she said.

"You're 4-2 in my book," her husband shot back, grinning.

Inches are important in this 3,000-member nationwide social organization. To qualify for membership, a person fully grown can be no taller than 4-10. The smallest member is an Ohioan, 2-10.

Little People of America is more into fun than into heavy issues — miniature golf, the Space Theater and dancing were on yesterday's agenda — but delegates are not above a beef or two.

"For one thing," said Davey Lamb, who specializes in criminal law, "a lot of

employers equate small size with small thinking. It's a barrier to get across to prospective employers.

"Little people can do the job — little people are just like everyone else. We have the same problems, we have the same likes and dislikes

and so forth.

"Less than one percent of the nation's little people are in show business, but at least once a month someone asks me if I'm a (midget) wrestler or in the circus."

What the nation's little people, or dwarfs as they are

scientifically designated, said.

need most, said Lamb, "is 'PR' — public relations."

The public should be brought to realize that widespread job competence and professionalism exist among this country's estimated 10,000 to 25,000 little people, Lamb

said.

Actor Billy Barty, recently lauded for his role in the motion picture, "Foul Play," is probably the most widely known member of the Little People organization. He was the group's founder in 1957 and was due in San

Diego yesterday to attend the convention.

Lamb feels that dwarfs' parents are largely responsible for the lack of doctors and dentists in the undersized people's ranks. "They should treat the (dwarf)

(Continued on B-7, Col. 1)

Little People Size Things Up, Note Bias

(Continued from Page B-2)

child the same as any other child — not restrict Johnny from doing something and telling him, 'It's because you're so small.'

"This develops inferiority complexes.

"My parents treated me right. They told me there was nothing I couldn't do."

Lamb, a Southern Methodist University alumnus who is practicing law in Los Angeles now after moving to California from Dallas, credits Little People of America with "developing leadership qualities — making extroverts out of introverts," but concedes that members are "touchy" about some terminology relating to them.

Dwarfs do not classify themselves as handicapped and do not call taller adults normal. Rather, these run-of-the-mill size adults are termed average.

Nevertheless, Lamb said, the little people are benefiting from the wheelchair ramps, the low-level telephones and the various other architectural design changes reflecting awareness of the handicapped's rights. He commented further:

"I think we are on the verge of a new era in this respect — and I think it's great. First came the age of the blacks and civil rights in the 1950s, then the women's movement in the 1960s and

now the age of the handicapped in the late 1970s."

But back to a pet Lamb peeve:

He will not park his car in any space reserved for the handicapped and he believes that stronger action should be taken to keep all other able-bodied men and women from parking in such spaces.

There are 80 forms of dwarfism, according to Little People of America. Most common is achondroplasia, characterized by average-size torso, short arms and legs, a head slightly larger than average and a bridgeless nose.

Dwarfism occurs about once in 40,000 births.

Tall vs. short game

HAYWARD — The Golden Gate Tip Toppers' social club for tall men and women will play its annual softball game against the Little People of America Sunday, June 13 at Kennedy Park.

The game should be interesting, to say the least, as the shortest member of the Tip Toppers is five-foot-10, while the Little People's tallest player is only 4-10.

The public is invited to the 2 p.m. contest at no charge. For further information about the game, or the Tip Toppers, contact Joe Durrenburger at 523-0863.



This fine looking group consists of active District-12 members who attended the District Convention in San Diego in the Fall of 1978. Jerry Campbell, a member of the LA Chapter was kind enough to supply this photo.



These 13 people were part of the group of 24 attending District One's recent spring regional. They are, left to right, front row: Joey Purcell, Ruth Ricker, Kerry White and Celeste Staples; second row: Ann Purcell, Richard Valuckas, Carol Angell and Al Staples; third row: Jake Roach, Judith Valuckas, Frieda Betsky and Michael Valuckas.



Group photo from ARRO Convention



This group of 24 is shown at District Five's spring regional in Townsend,



Tenn., April 21-23. Almost 40 people were in attendance.



THE REAL McCOY — Four-year-old Michelle Bottomely is somewhat startled as she stumbles into a real live elf as she roamed through an assortment of stuffed animals at Old Towne Mall's shopping center. The

"elf" is actor Felix Silla who stands 3 ft. 10½ inches tall and along with his wife, they each pay the role of an elf during the Christmas holidays at Old Towne in Torrance.

—UPI Telephoto



Remarks of an Average Sister

by June Ann

MY SISTER

She is different,
She is great.

by June Ann
(Mrs. R.B. Roper, III)

80

MY SISTER
Remarks of an Average Sister

by June Ann

(This written by the sister of an LP in order to hopefully help other sisters and brothers of Little People.)

Our mother, when she was 24 had my sister and at the age of 40, she had me, so there was quite a few years difference. My mom was ill a lot, so my sister looked out for me a great deal of the time. It was at about age 5 or 6 that I began to notice my sister as being different - maybe it was that I was becoming conscious of others reactions. The Public's reaction to little people was sometimes anything but tact. I dealt with it at first (especially children) with a great amount of resentment, but as time went on I seemed to get more and more conscious of it. Throughout school my friends always took notice of my sister, but after I explained that she was just like their brother or sister only she was shorter, they accepted it. Most of my friends admired her and looked upon it as a special family situation.

When I was 7 my sister became involved in Little People of America, Inc. After a few meetings she involved me. At the first meeting I was scared and really didn't know what to expect. After about 30 minutes of meeting and trying to run around helping them all, I realized they were just like me - they wouldn't break. My sister and I became good friends with LP's - her more than me because of circumstances in common. I saw a little bit of my sister in all of them, which made me feel close to them, almost as if it was an enormous family.

There are a few major points LPA taught me that may help you: 1. People make fun of what they don't understand. 2. Let them (LP) go their own way. Just because they are little doesn't mean they don't know what is best for them. 3. Accept and help them accept. 4. Always be open and willing to listen. 5. Strive for them and yourself. Whenever I felt like giving up I thought of what my sister had done and found I had no excuse. 6. THE GOLDEN RULE--Never pat a little person on the head unless you want to have you kneecaps bitten off. THEY HATE IT!!

After several years of dating, my sister married - a dream that my parents had always hoped for, but had often feared might not happen for her. My mother always told my sister and I that there was no such word as can't, and for a baby that the doctors said would never walk, to one that achieved a college education, married and has a child of her own - I'd say mother was right - there is no such word as can't - just a lot of faith and fight. My life with a sister known as the "little general" is one I wouldn't trade for anything ever.

So, be VERY PROUD of that brother or sister of yours. He or she will probably cut a road that will be very hard for you to follow.

LEE KITCHENS, WHO STANDS TALL IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, SPEAKS UP FOR 'THE LITTLE PEOPLE'

Dwarfs populate folklore, from Santa's workshop to Snow White. Yet they are rarely encountered in everyday life, although there are some 20,000 dwarfs in the U.S. alone. While their bodies are small, there need be nothing stunted about their minds or achievements, as is demonstrated by Lee Kitchens, 47, the 4'1" past president of the Little People of America. Founded in 1957, LPA has about 2,500 members. A developmental engineer with Texas Instruments, Kitchens is one of the men credited with designing the first mass-produced transistor radio and was on the team—appropriately—that developed the best-selling miniature calculator, SR-50. Both Kitchens and his 3'11" wife, Mary, have pilot's licenses, drive Cadillacs and live in a normal-size house in Dallas with two adopted children, son Alan, 21, and daughter Sandy, 17. Lee Kitchens talked with Barney Collier for PEOPLE about America's little people and why they organized.

How do you define a dwarf?

The medical profession generally considers any adult under five feet a dwarf. The Little People of America established 4'10" as the limit. Most of our members are 2'6" to 4'6" tall.

What is the most common type of dwarf?

Some 85 different types of dwarfism have been identified, but the most easily recognized is achondroplasia. It involves shortening of the long bones, wide-spaced eyes, flat bridge of the nose, short fingers and a tendency to overweight.

Does a dwarf differ from a midget?

The type most people refer to as a midget is really a hypopituitary dwarf—we call them "hypopits." They lack a growth hormone created by the pituitary gland. They are perfectly proportioned miniature adults who may mature physically in other respects.

Can dwarfism be corrected?

If the cause is a pituitary deficiency, it can usually be corrected by the injection of a human growth hormone called HGH. The problem is that HGH can only be derived from the pituitary

glands of dead people. It takes 200 glands a year to sustain one individual's growth. HGH is also used on burn patients, so there is a shortage.

Are the words "dwarf" and "midget" offensive?

Well, they can be fighting words if used in terms of derision or disrespect. We call ourselves "LPs," for "little people" or "little person."

What do you call your babies?

We call them little-littles.

Do most little people have normal-size parents?

Yes. I did. Most types of dwarfism are genetic accidents that may happen as often as once in 10,000 births. If two little people have children, three out of four of their offspring are likely to be little-littles. When only one parent is a little person, the odds are 50-50.

What is the normal-size parents' reaction to a dwarf child?

There customarily is shock, surprise, anger, rejection, blaming it on the other partner—all of which are absurd. This is something that cannot be controlled by anyone. It just happens.

When did your parents know you were going to be small?

I suspect at birth, but it was confirmed by the Mayo Clinic when I was 16 months old. They advised my mother, "Take him home and treat him like you would any other kid." This is the right advice, though it's difficult to take. I think my parents did pretty well.

Were they overly protective?

No, but they warned me, "Stay out of crowds, because you might get crushed." And I couldn't cross the street as early as other kids, for fear I wouldn't be seen and would get run over.

What physical problems did you have in school?

Not being able to reach the door handle or the telephone or water fountains. The stairs were too high and the hand rail out of reach. The world is designed for normal kids. Still, I managed to go



Electrical engineer Lee Kitchens, who shares six U.S. patents, chats with colleague Stan Moore at Texas Instruments. At right, the 4'1" Lee casts a Texas-size shadow.

to Texas Christian University and get my electrical engineering degree from Southern Methodist University.

Was driving a car an important symbol?

It was to me, and I know it was to my wife, Mary. It cut the string of total dependence on our parents in getting around and doing things. When I was 21, I had a job and had saved up enough money. My dad was afraid I'd buy a piece of junk. One day out of the clear blue sky he said, "Here, I want you to have a good car." It was just a Ford, but to me it was like a Rolls-Royce!

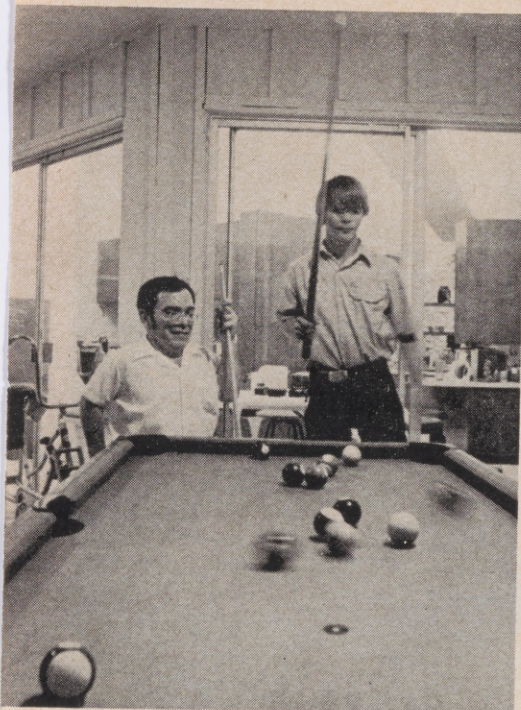
How did you make the car fit your size?

My dad and a mechanic put in a false floorboard, raised the seat and cut down the steering wheel. A lot was overkill; it made the car impossible for anyone else to drive. My next car was done differently, with extensions on the gas pedal and brake, and a removable seat. Now if my big friends want to take over, I simply move those things out of the way and they can drive.

What are a little person's emotional problems?

To learn to live with the comments people make, like, "Hey, why are you so little?" If you let them get under your skin, you can lead a miserable life.

CONTINUED



In their Dallas home, Kitchens matches cues with adopted son Alan, 21, thought to be a little person at birth but who grew to 5'7".

Words CONTINUED

How do you handle the situation?

You have to expect that children, who are naturally curious, are going to ask questions. A 4-year-old girl came up to Mary one day, touched her and asked, "Are you real, or are you a puppet?" The simplest thing is to answer the question factually.

What is the best way for little people to adjust?

Consultation with another little person who has been through the same thing and has come to grips with it. If you are helping them, it is almost as if you can read their minds. They may harbor a fantasy that one day, through some miracle, all of a sudden they will grow up. If you say, "I used to have that fantasy," it's a shock to them. It may have been one of their innermost secrets which they hadn't shared with anyone.

What is their deepest wish?

A desire for independence. They don't want to depend on other people for transportation or to reach things. That's why driving a car is such a liberator. The little person says, "Hey, I'm

behind the wheel like everybody else. Nobody can tell the difference."

Do little people ever deny they're little?

All the time. When I meet one I don't know in the street, he may turn and run. When they see me, it's like seeing themselves in a home movie—seeing themselves as they really are.

How do they like to see themselves?

They feel that everybody accepts them as perfectly normal—which is true to some extent. Your close friends forget your differences. But of course it's not true that everybody looks at you that way. You drive up to a strange filling station and get out of your car, and they're going to *look*. Sooner or later, the pressure gets too great, and then they come round to the Little People of America. They've had enough.

Enough what?

Enough isolation, I guess. Enough lack of information.

Besides counseling and comradeship, what services does the LPA provide?

We try to discover cases of short

CONTINUED



Mary and Lee Kitchens (center left) greet an 18-month-old toddler, youngest of 75 at a Little People of America picnic in Dallas.

Words CONTINUED

stature in children, some of whom are hidden in back rooms. Parents will deny that their child is different. They live in a fantasy that their child is a slow grower, that everything is going to be all right.

Have you found many such children?

I know of a Long Island lawyer who kept his two kids out of sight until they

were 16. They had never been to school. In Minnesota, we found six people who had been institutionalized all their lives, but only one of the six was mentally retarded. There's no way of telling how many people like that are hidden away. We only find out by luck, by accident or by word of mouth.

Do little people often intermarry?

Quite often small couples will latch

onto each other because it looks like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A lot of these couples will make the marriage work, even though they are mismatched.

Do little people ever marry big people?

Yes. We call those "mixed marriages." It has to be tough on the normal-size person because of the stigma society has placed on the little person.

Are many little people successful?

We probably have a disproportionate share of unemployed or underemployed people because isolation and prejudice have denied them an education. You can't get a job until employers are willing to hire handicapped individuals. There was nothing we could do about that until recently. But now, across the board, we have a number of schoolteachers, accountants, business people. I measure anyone who has come up to normal in every respect except size as successful. □

81

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH ON RALPH PETTY
(Anita Aguilar and Robert Biggs interviewed Ralph recently. They plan to do more of these on some of the long-time members of LPA)



Ralph Petty was born in Fullerton, California on May 30, to a family consisting of three brothers and four sisters. He went to school and college in Fullerton, and studied accounting; up until retirement, Ralph worked at Hunt's

Foods. Ralph and his wife, Myrtle, of 13 years, reside in Buena Park. They have one daughter, Paula Gayley, and are the proud grandparents of Brad. David, their son, passed away at the age of 19, in 1976. Ralph has been active in the club for 27 years. His first LPA acquaintance was Dorothy Henderson. He worked for several years on the Chapter Newsletter. His hobbies include woodworking and his extensive collection of unique Avon Bottles. Ralph also dabbled in the flicks and made his debut in "Pigmy Island" with Johnny Weissmiller.



There is always something "yummy" coming off the stove in Tena Baehm's kitchen.

But it hasn't eliminated the prejudices that little people encounter.

"We try to live normal lives," Bob says. "We're not handicapped. At work I can do a job as well as the next guy — or better. That's why my boss is paying me top dollar."

"Yet so many people have this hangup about little people. They see me on the street and pat me on the head and feel my face. You'd think I was something from another planet."

like you can't handle with royal

Dwarfs...

Continued from page 39

his seven-room stucco home. He climbed into the front seat of his 1966 Rambler, then his 1979 Ford Fairmont.

He wanted to demonstrate how a guy 4-foot-6 can reach the accelerator, the clutch, the brake.

"See," he said. "I do it with extension devices on all the pedals. I invented and manufacture them. I sell more than I can make."

Bob walked back into the house and headed for the kitchen.

His wife was now standing on a step stool fixing dinner. She drew her dishes from a cabinet just above the floor.

"From four feet down," Bob said, "it's a pretty clean kitchen. But anything above four feet might be a little dusty."

"We'll never know," Jackie said. She smiled.

The lively lady with the Texas twang nominates electric clothes dryers as the world's greatest invention for little housewives.

"I could never reach those outside clotheslines," she said cheerfully.

And the joyous little couple enjoyed a big laugh.



District Six little people, auxiliary members, and guests, including members from neighboring districts Five, Seven and Nine, composed the crowd of over 125 at

the District Six regional meeting in Elgin, Ill., last November.

How little people look up at life

by Ed Levitt
Staff Writer

Hayward —Bob East looked into his bathroom mirror. All he could see was his forehead and hair.

So he hung up another mirror, below the built-in one, to see his face.

He walked back to the family room and sat on his rocking chair — the one without legs.

"I had to chop off the rocker," he said, "to get it low enough to sit down."

Later he went to the kitchen. He stood on a stool to reach for a soda in the refrigerator.

He wanted to wash a glass, but to get up to the sink he had to step on a wooden platform.

"Little people learn to improvise," said Bob East, who stands 4-foot-6.

The muscular little man took his soda and placed it on the bar-type counter — 28 inches off the floor.

The wall-phone rang. Bob didn't have to stretch. There it hung, just three feet up.

"I used to have trouble phoning at the BART stations in Oakland," said his wife, Jackie, who is 4-foot.

"Now, thank heavens, they've lowered some of the pay phones — and some of the ticket machines."

"They didn't lower it for the little people," Bob East said. "They lowered it for the handicapped people in wheelchairs."

There are 50,000 dwarfs in the United States.

"We resent being called midgets," Bob said. "A midget is a slang name for anything small. I find it derogatory."

"I'm a dwarf. My wife is a dwarf. But my 27-year-old son, Jon, is 5-foot-8. And my daughter, Alicia, 7, is as tall as most girls her age."

Children of two dwarf parents have a 50-50 chance of being average-sized. The babies are born by Caesarian section.

"My son is married to a dwarf and they have a daughter who is average-sized," Bob said. "My father was 6-feet and my mother 5-11. My wife's father was 5-11 and her mother was 5-6."

School is the biggest problem for little people.

"Sitting up at desks, going to the bathroom, taunted by other kids — it can get nasty. It leads to fights — and I never lost a fight," Bob recalls.

"My kids ... they've taken abuse. They got teased about their parents. My son took more. It

Footstool helps Jackie East with the dishes while Bob dries



Staff photo by Roy Williams

got to him. We'd get PTA invitations and Jon would throw them away. He didn't want us to show up for any school functions. He thought it would embarrass him."

Conditions changed when their son joined the Cub Scouts in East Oakland.

"The parents had to be participants and we showed up for everything," Bob said. "The other kids came to accept us. They found out we were just like other people."

The only dwarfs Jon East saw for the first 10 years of his life were his parents.

His father was 16 before "I saw a dwarf without looking in the mirror," Bob said. "It hit me hardest as a teen-ager. All there was then was the movies and the roller skating — and always alone. That was the easiest way out. 'Alone' became my password."

Jackie nodded. "My teen-age years were my most difficult time," she said. "I couldn't date. I was the only little person in my town — in fact in the whole county of Texas where I lived. My girlfriends, all average-sized, would go out on dates. I'd stay home every Saturday night."

Bob shared the same frustration.

"No regular-sized girl would go out with

me," he remembered. "And I didn't know any little girls."

So how do you find wives or husbands, jobs and careers, sanity and security, when your legs are 17-inches long and everybody around you seem tall as buildings?

It goes deeper than clothes ("they're all too big, so we alter them") and shoes ("we buy children sizes. You'd be surprised how grown up they look").

"You learn to cope," Bob said. "You say to yourself, 'There it is. How are you gonna do it?'"

Jackie, 44, and Bob, 57, met at a Little People of America convention and got married three years later.

"I've worked steady since 1950," said Bob, who draws above-scale pay as a machinist in Emeryville. "I stand on a nine-inch platform to do my job."

Jackie works as a typist and filing supervisor for the Oakland Department of Community Development.

The Easts agree that Little People of America, a national social organization for dwarfs, "has made all of us feel stronger."

"It brought home the fact that we are not alone in the world," said Bob, who for years was district officer of the Bay Area chapter.

ene

The Arts
starts today
on Page 60

S.F. EXAMINER—Page 19

★ Wed., July 18, 1979



x with her autograph book, a record of the people she's befriended during her aspiring show business career

Examiner photos by Nicole Bengi

aking it small in show business

By Bea Pixa

ALMOST ENGULFED by the upholstered chair in which she sits, Tamara (Tammy) de Treaux exclaims, "It takes people a little while to get used to me, for some reason." That observation — undoubtedly true — might have something to do with the fact that she stands but 31 inches tall.

Although bent on making it big in show business, de Treaux bears the distinction of being possibly the smallest woman in the world — or as she puts it, "the petite of the petites." The diminutive performer — a singer and actress whose speaking voice brings to mind the 1950s records by The Chipmunks, did a summer study session with ACT, has had voice training, and checks in regularly with a drama coach to groom herself for what she feels is imminent stardom. She's also a psychology student at Chabot College, because she feels that major will help add breadth and depth to her dramatic skills.

As might be expected, she finds suitable roles hard to come by, and even work as an extra is out of the question because she obviously can't melt into a crowd. To whip up interest in her talents, the 19-year-old de Treaux religiously makes the rounds of writers', producers' and directors' offices. "I have to go out and say to them, 'Hi there. You want me. You don't know it yet, but you want me.'"

She had an agent, briefly, but de Treaux observes sarcastically that he seemed to spend his time waiting for someone to call and ask for a performer who was 2-feet-six, green-eyed, red-haired and weighed between 35 and 40 pounds.

She pushes against obstacles that are much bigger than she is, but her size coupled with her "chutzpah" have propelled her through doors that might otherwise have remained firmly shut. "I'm a real barger," she says cheerfully of her tenacity and ability to demand, and get, an interview.

To meet celebrities who perform locally, she spends a lot of time at the Boarding House, and usually sends a note after performances, explaining that she's both an actress and the smallest woman in the world. More often than not, the already famous are just as interested in making her acquaintance as she is in making theirs. As a result of her enterprise, she counts comedians Lily Tomlin and Robin Williams as special friends, and considers Walter Matthau "the nicest man in the world." On the other hand, Barry Manilow gets lowest marks for his indifference to a meeting, consequently, "I can't wait to refuse him."

Although she's persisted, becoming famous remains a tall order. Her show business earnings thus far would allow her to support herself, she joshes, "if I didn't have to pay rent or buy food."

De Treaux's interest in a performing career began six years ago, at age 13, with the realization that she couldn't get work babysitting during the summer, as her schoolmates were doing, because most babies were bigger than she was. Instead, a friend of

the family who is an actor got her a job in "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," a movie made for television in which she played a fur-covered monster, something "between a mole and a bear."

Following that, she cavorted as a megavitamin pill in a promotional film made for a local channel. She's also appeared at the Dickens Faire as a Chinese empress, and at the Renaissance Faire, where, playing the baker's wife, she sits in a wheelbarrow heaped with bread. More recently, she was a stand-in for a child during production of "Little Miss Marker."

Reflecting on her desire for fame, de Treaux says it's simply an extension of all the attention she already gets. "It's not like I can walk into a room and melt," she observes. "I've lived with an 'almost being famous' kind of atmosphere all my life. I'm noticed. I'm looked at. I'm asked who I am. I'm stared at."

"I heard Dean Martin say during a television interview that what he hated most about being famous was having people stare at him while he ate. I go through that all the time. It's just second nature to me."

De Treaux is not altogether displeased by the attention. "I don't think I would like it if I weren't noticed," she remarks. She also delights in the looks she gets when she walks her "very itty bitsy little dog," a 2½-pound Yorkshire terrier.

However, living at a kneecap level has its obvious drawbacks, although in the San Leandro home she shares with her mother (who is also her manager), there have been few concessions made

'It's not like I can walk into a room and melt ... I'm stared at'



The kitchen counter is a stretch



With her 'itsy bitsy little dog' Pappy, a 2½-pound Yorkshire terrier

'I want to be famous — fame is equal to love these days'

to her size. "I've just adapted. But my mother gets upset because I have a tendency to stand on the toaster to reach things. I love to cook." A redwood cedar chest serves as her dressing table, but that, she says, is the only low piece of furniture.

For turning on lights, she finds a backscratcher useful. Elevator buttons are way out of reach. Getting onto a chair is a bit of a climb, and buying clothes is a catch-as-catch-can effort. De Treaux makes many of the things she wears, "even though I hate sewing more than anything in the entire world." The dress she wore the day of the interview, however, was a store-bought blouse that seemed to adapt very well.

A recent tour of the King Tut exhibit with her sister proved awkward, but not impossible. "I got a wheelchair and stood up in it, because the exhibits are very high. We just plowed through — but we may have run over a couple of people."

Another time, she and her mother were making their way to movie seats while holding aloft boxes of popcorn. "It was hard to manage getting the seat down, and me on top of it, with the popcorn in my hand. The seat flipped up, and the popcorn shot up in the air." The whole row of moviegoers, she chuckles, exploded with laughter.

De Treaux has an older sister and brother, both average size. Technically, she's classified somewhere between a midget and a dwarf. "I've been told I'm really well-adjusted," says the tiny whirlwind, who nonetheless recalls having had a little trouble around age 16 — but then, that's a real earthquake time for yourself." She finished her last year and a half of high school with a private tutor.

As far as her show business competition goes, she's almost in a class by herself, although she knows quite a few aspiring male actors who are "little people." Even so, she complains, when there is a role for a "little person," it usually goes to a male. She's met Herve Villechaize, the midget co-star of "Fantasy Island," and comments, "If I were in his place, I would not have another

little person on the show. I know it sounds callous, but when you have two, they detract from each other, I think."

Mostly, she sighs, "I want to play a person who is foremost a person, but just happens to be short. I know a lot of tall people feel the same way." Her dream is to portray Fanny Brice, "but I don't think they'd ever let me do it, but maybe something like a Fanny Brice character." Or, she says, green eyes glinting, "I'd love to play an ax murderer."

At the moment, she'd just like to find some roles. "I guess they're afraid if they put me in a very average-type role, that people would not accept it. I really want to play a person who is involved with someone of average stature, because I have always been involved with people who are of average size — which people find real bizarre. They can't handle it, for some reason."

A woman who apparently handles her unique size better than many people handle too many freckles, she harbors no fantasies about being tall and, in fact, loves midget jokes.

A confirmed optimist, she figures if she were any taller, "I wouldn't have the advantages I have. I wouldn't know half the people I know. As for her theatrical aspirations, she assumes, "It's all going to happen. Why put me here on earth if not to do something? I want to be famous. You know, fame is equal to love these days. And I'll know I'm famous when Rona Barrett wants to do an interview and I'll have a guest host spot on Johnny Carson." When that moment comes, she expects she'll be ready. "So far, I've been on the Evening Show, twice."

Inside

Re-enlisting for the Peace Corps at 76
— Page 20

Food: Shopping at the Farmers' Market
— Page 22



De Treaux jokes with her brother, Stephen Hardisty

Public attitudes target of couple

By REED SEIDEN

Part of the function of Little People of America, say Al and Harriet Stickney, is it facilitates the clearing up of misconceptions surrounding people such as themselves.

The Stickney's, little people in the parlance of their organization, or short-statured people, achondroplastic dwarfs in medical terms, are involved in redefining the very names by which they and people like them are known.

The labels and myths attached to short-statured people in the past are baggage no one should have to carry around with them, the Stickneys feel.

"You have to go way back in history," says Harriet a school teacher, "to when dwarfs in the court were a step above a pet. And there's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and all the rest."

San Bruno residents, the Stickneys have both been active in LPA, as they call Little People of America, taking on leadership roles. Al was district director of the organization for six years and Harriet was vice-president for four years. She is also a special correspondent for the LPA News, the bi-monthly organ of the group.

Al is a management level employee for United Airlines and Harriet has now left teaching "because when he started working different shifts I felt I wouldn't have enough time to be with him."



E-J photo by REED SEIDEN

Al Stickney, a management employee for United Airlines and his wife Harriet, a school teacher, are active in Little People of America. The Stickneys were interviewed at their home recently, distinguished by a "lowered kitchen," remodeled to put the stove and sink six inches closer to the ground.

Their respective stations in life are important to them because, as Harriet put it, "I wanted people to evaluate me as a teacher, not as a dwarf." She had

trouble landing her first job, though.

She is acutely interested in the general perception of dwarfism, and likes to read novels "with short-

statured heroes so I can see how they are depicted."

In Japan, "dwarfism is considered a curse upon the family," Harriet explains.

(Continued on page 14)

Little people

(Continued from page 1)

In some primitive cultures, it is considered magical. The aim of LPA is to get across the point that "we are human."

What the organization provides is similarly simple. According to Harriet: "Encouragement."

The organization was founded in 1957 by Billy Barty, a short-statured TV actor. One of its foremost aims is to "get little people into the mainstream of life," says Al. "At one time the only jobs little people had was in the circus, as freaks."

Much concern is directed toward "little littles," short-statured children and toward parents, average-sized adults of short-statured children.

LPA offers this thought to its members: "A small person can live in two worlds—a small world and an average size world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself. But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth—not even to himself."

An avowed goal of the organization is to generate funding for medicine oriented towards a cure for dwarfism. In a recent issue of the LPA News, it was noted positively that a new Kansas law "allows coroners to remove the pituitary gland without legal action."

Pituitary gland hormones can be used to stimulate growth in cases of hypopituitary dwarfism. Hypopituitary dwarfism produces characteristics commonly labeled "midget," a term frowned upon by little people.

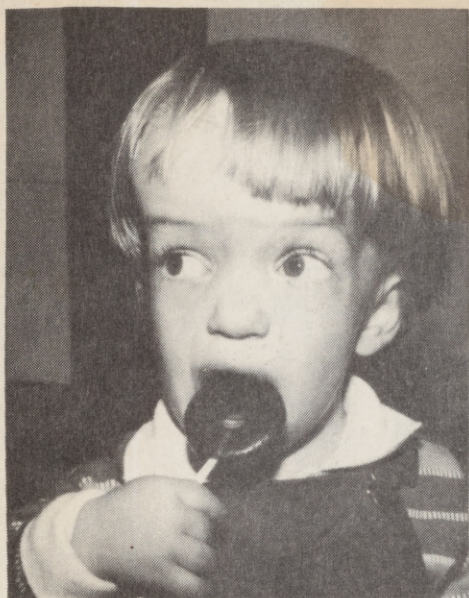
Hypopituitary dwarfs are "proportionate," whereas nonhypopituitary dwarfs tend to be "disproportionate" in body. This latter condition is the more common one and does not respond to pituitary gland treatments because it is a bone condition, not glandular. Achondroplastic or achondroplasia refers to the abnormal formation of the bones.

Achondroplastic dwarfism includes not only shortness, but foreshortening of the limbs. There are over 85 separate varieties of dwarfism, and in many cases other factors combine with shortness in the condition. The most common is bowing of the arms or legs in achondroplastic dwarfs, often necessitating extensive surgery.

Hypopituitary dwarfs do tend to be smaller than achondroplastic dwarfs, confirmed Al, though, naturally, nowhere near the diminutive proportions of the Tom Thumb myth.

4-18-79

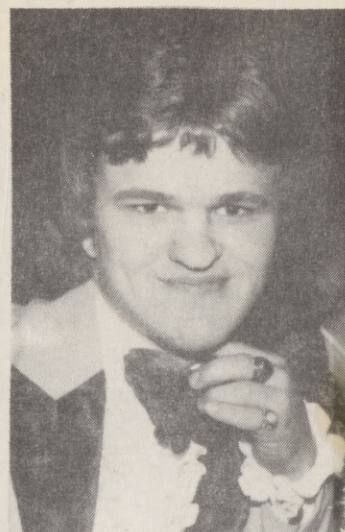
HAPPINESS...



Enjoying candy from Santa Claus -- Matthew McCarthy



Is your first LPA Christmas Party for Tonya Banks, with Novella Cockrell's mother.



Is having a date with George R.!



Is "Jingle Bell Rock" -- Leroy Lambert - Jim Undi



Is meeting Connie Eisenbraun!



Is a nice Christmas Smile! -- Teri Dickson.



Is greetings from Oxnard - Carol Scharrer!



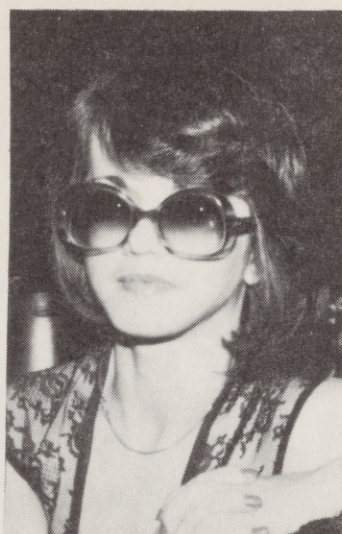
Is four Christmas beauties - Delores Carillo, Mimi Wade, Lilly Johnson and George Guild!!!!



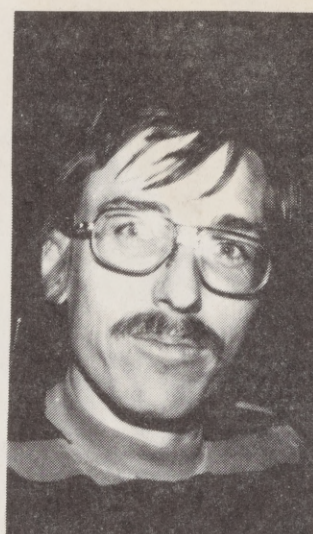
HAPPINESS...



Is anticipation of Christmas! Janet Nehus.



Is being Santa's undercover elf! Stacie Nichols



Is a Dutch clock-maker! Bob Aries



Is strumming strings of Christmas music! Judy Byzewski



Is an evening of romance! Jo Ann and Bill Norvell



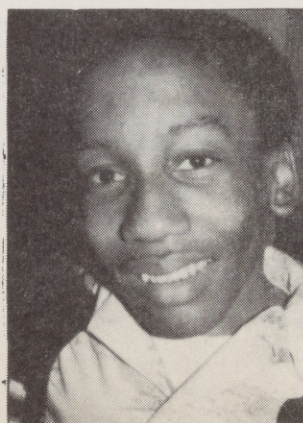
Is opening your home to LPA friends! Yvonne Boursse



Is giving Christmas a snappy drum-beat! Robert Bell



Is out-of-towners coming to Christmas Banquet! Danny Margulies & Vicki Fehrstrom



Is having your name in lights! Tony Cox



Is being an E.F.C!--Chickadee Sanchez



Is making LPA friends -

Lee Kitchens: He's done it all

This is the second of a series of profiles on outstanding members of Little People of America.

In this issue, we highlight one of the pillars of the organization, Lee Kitchens of Texas. Lee, 49, has been a member of LPA since 1960 and has attended every National Convention except the 1957 organizational gathering.

Lee served as National President of LPA from 1964 to 1968. Mary, Lee's wife served as National Treasurer for four years also.

Q. Due in part to the People Magazine article on you, folks all over the country have now heard about you. Exactly what do you do for Texas Instruments?

A. "I'm one of the Engineering Managers responsible for the manufacturing engineering group working on new products."

Q. Is it true that you have several patents relating to the pocket calculator that Texas Instruments is now famous for?

A. "I have a co-patent on the calculator utilizing the



Former President Lee Kitchens
...benefits greatly from LPA

Instruments (TI) 27 years ago. Was it difficult getting that job?

A. "My job was a cinch. They had a cooperative engineering program at SMU (Southern Methodist University) where you worked two months and went to school two months."

"I worked for one company for a year, then after graduation, I was hired by an ex-professor who went to work for TI. I was well qualified for the job."

Q. In your line of work, did you have to make any kind of adjustment so everything was within your reach?

A. "The only adjustment that was ever made was when I went to work as a draftsman and I stood on a foot locker to reach the drafting table. After I had been with TI 10 years, I sawed off six-inches on the legs of my desk."

Q. I also understand that you spent time in Europe, for TI, tell us about that.

Continued on Page 5



**Editor's Report*

Ed Lang

micro-chip that everyone has heard about. Actually, I have about a half-dozen patents on electronic circuits and a printer that goes on one of our calculators. Actually, the patents cover different parts and components."

Q. I understand that you started working for Texas

He's inventor and former aviator

Continued from Page 4

A. "We spent about a year and a half in Europe. We were in the Netherlands for seven months starting up a factory. Then we were transferred to Italy. We planned two vacations back home so we would be able to get to the National Convention."

Q. Tell us about growing up?

A. "I'm a native of Fort Worth Tex. and both my parents are average size. I had the same problems other Little People had. My parents were very understanding but overprotective."

"One of the great things they did offer me was compensation for the things I could not do. I built model airplanes and was a fairly active amateur photographer. My dad set up a darkroom in the house so I could use it."

"I also served as manager of the Arlington Heights High School football team for three years. I received a letter for managing. We just had our 30th year reunion. That seems like a long time ago."

Q. What was your first experience with another Little Person?

A. "In 1950 I started hunting for other Little People and the first person I met was a fellow in a wheelchair. We later wound up going to Engineering School together. Then, I found other Little People after that."

Q. Mary, your wife, is also short statured. You have two children, Sandra, 19, who was married recently and Alan, 22. Tell us how you met your wife?

A. "I met Mary on a blind date. My roommate and I were engineers at the campus radio station and word came down that the station at TWU (Texas Woman's College) was off the air and we decided to go up there one Saturday to help them back on the air."

"I was at the station and my roommate went to look for some parts and he bumped into Mary walking on campus. Through a girlfriend of his, he set up the date."

Q. Was it love at first sight?

A. "No, not really. After that first date, we didn't see each other for a year. Then Mary got a car with pedal extensions and she drove over to SMU to see what mine looked like. We went together for a year after that, were engaged for a year and married in 1955 after we both finished college."

Q. How did you hear about LPA?

A. "I first heard about LPA through my attorney who saw Billy Barty on Ralph Edwards's 'This is Your Life' show. That was in 1959. I got on Billy's mailing list and in 1960, went to my first convention."

Q. Why did you join LPA?

A. "I joined because I thought it would be beneficial to the children. I really didn't think Mary or I would get anything from joining LPA."

Q. Do you still feel that way?

A. "It has helped Mary and I as much as it has helped our children. I feel it has been invaluable to me because it helped my self confidence. I started becoming at ease speaking before a large group of people. I knew they were not looking at me because I was different. It made a lot of difference in the Big World."

Q. Do you feel your children had it easier because you were both Little or was their childhood as difficult.

A. "We thought both our children would be short statured because Alan (now 22-years-old and 5-foot-7) was diagnosed as having a condition causing short stature. As he grew older, things got to be a bit of a nuisance for him. The kitchen counters were too low and we had to let him start using the guest bathroom."

"On the other hand, we found that Sandra had as tough a time growing up as we did. The only difference was that it was easier for her physically. You can make life harder for a Little Person by putting up artificial barriers, being overprotective. We were a bit overprotective but we pushed her out on her own when we felt the time was right."

He learns something every convention

Continued from Page 5

Q. Sandra married an average sized man. Did you have any reservations about that?

A. "Yes, I sure did but it is none of my business. You can't run your children's lives. There comes a time when you have to step back and let them do their own thing. We questioned her decision but it was her own choice."

Q. At one time you and Mary flew an airplane. Tell us about that experience.

A. "We sold the plane before we went to Europe because I had a series of eye operations and Mary's blood pressure was too high. But flying was no real big deal. We went to the flight school talked to the instructor, went to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and were told that if we passed the physical and the plane was properly modified, there would be no problem."

"I designed most of the modifications myself and equipped it for just a couple of hundred dollars. We went out with the FAA and passed the test with flying colors, so to speak."

Q. You are very active in handicapped causes. You attended the White House Conference for Handicapped Individuals, serve on the Texas Human

Resources Task Force and are a Vice-President of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Where does LPA fit into these activities?

A. "I have come to a new awareness the past few years. Up until that time myself and most other LPers were taking care of our own business. We have taught our members not to expect the world to adjust to you, that you must adjust to the world."

"But after becoming acquainted with different disabilities, I have come to realize that they have the same problems. Architectural barriers, public awareness and occasional discrimination are problems we both face."

"We as an organization are at a turning point where we should start to consider working with other organizations."

Q. What is the future for LPA?

A. "Personally, I want to see LPA continue to grow. As public awareness grows, we will grow. I still think it is very important for Little People to get together to share their problems and solutions. We never cease to learn something from every convention we attend."

"Every convention offers us a chance to see a part of the U.S. that we might not ordinarily get to see and allows us to reacquaint ourselves with many of the 1,000 real good friends we have met through LPA."



**BURGUNDY
STYLE MB10**



0 23602 60101 7

MADE IN CHINA BY PIONEER PHOTO ALBUMS
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 © 2007
USE REFILLS #RMW-5 OR #RMB-5

Volume 1 - 1981 - 1982